



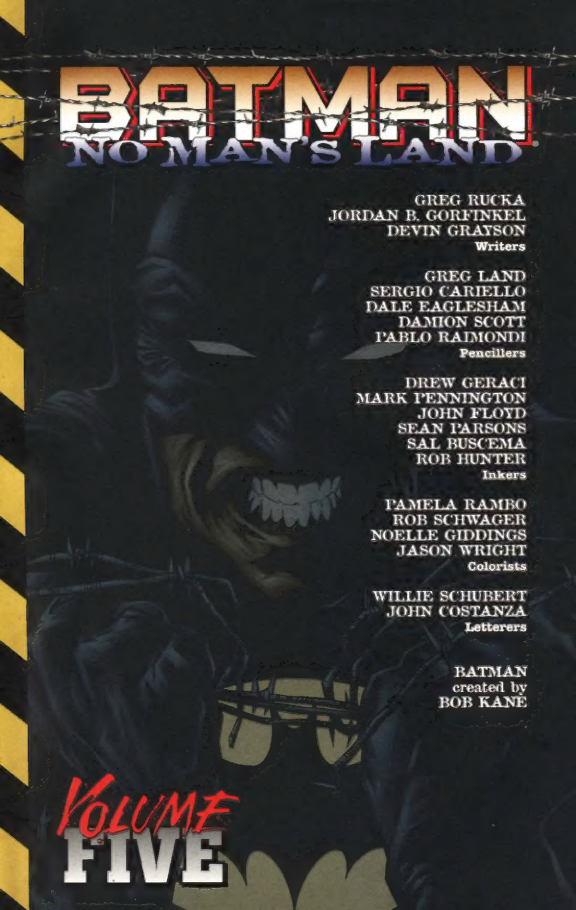
BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND



VOLUME
FIVE

LAND
GERARD



BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND

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VOLUME
FIVE

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NO MAN'S LAND. A CITY ON THE BRINK OF CHAOS, RULED BY MADMEN.

After a devastating earthquake leveled most of Gotham, the United States government ordered the city evacuated. All bridges were destroyed, all waterways mined. Those who remained were shut off from the world in a bleak and brutal No Man's Land.

With Gotham City effectively cut off from the outside world, the city's most notorious criminals each carved out a section of Gotham to rule as warlords. Tragically (though not surprisingly) they then turned against each other in bloody territorial wars. The city was in chaos.

Then he struck back.

Aided by a small band of allies, the Batman turned the tide against the territorial warlords, and, for the first time, there was a glimmer of hope for Gotham City. But a dispute with the Huntress thinned the Batman's ranks. And the appearance of one of his most lethal foes, Bane, was cause for grave concern. But Bane was merely the point man for an even greater threat to the future of Gotham City — Lex Luthor.

But our story begins one year earlier, mere weeks after the beginning of No Man's Land...





SHE SCREAMS.

AND NOBODY COMES.

GROUND ZERO

JORDAN B. GORPINKEL & GREG RUCKA
writers
GREG LAND penciller
DREW GERACI inker
ROB SCHWAGER computer colorist
WILLIE SCHUBERT letterer
Introducing FRANK BERRIOS
assistant editor
with JOSEPH ILLIDGE & DENNIS O'NEIL
as the bulldog as the editor

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

...SHE'S STILL
SCREAMING.

--CAMERAS
CAUGHT UP WITH
THIS BLUSHIVE
MISTER WAYNE IN
MONALO ON DAY
SEVEN OF "BRUCE'S
BACCHANALIA"--





*I could stop their screaming
with one bolt.*

*Wouldn't stop a
damn thing.*

DONALD
RATER

Seven days since
Gotham's been left to
rot like Gomorrah.

We're better
than that.

I'm sure of it.

Unfortunately,
I've seen
nothing so far
to support
that faith.

Been like this since
they blew the
mainland crossings...

...since we were abandoned
on "Black Monday."

Now, wherever there's
food or supplies or
anything of use...

...there's a mob
scene.



This is madness!

STOP!





I DON'T BELONG HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
ELSE TO GO.



I'VE BEEN BRUCE
WAYNE FOR A
WEEK NOW.



--switched
decks, cards
are marked--

NOT AN
ACT.

NOT A
COVER.



--DEO under-
cover out of
Afghanistan--

I TRIED ALTRUISM.
IT DIDN'T PAN OUT.



SO I'M TRYING

--Stripes is
sleeping with
Blue's husband--

THE OTHER EXTREME

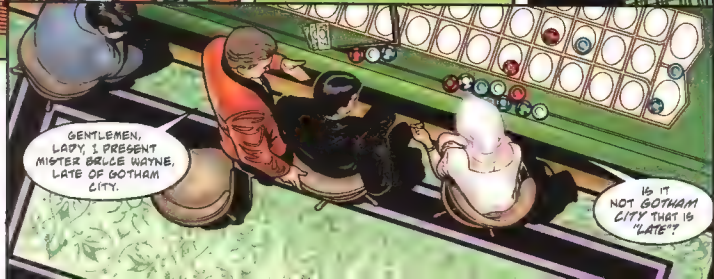
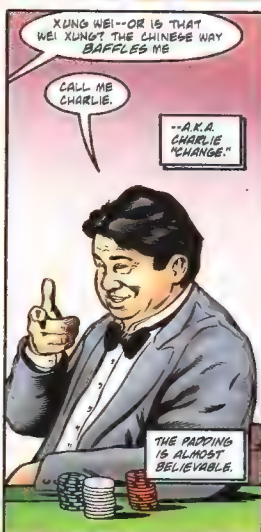
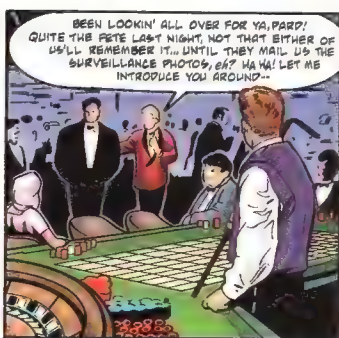
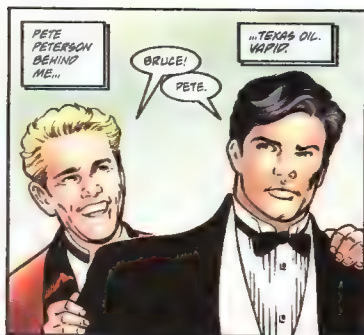


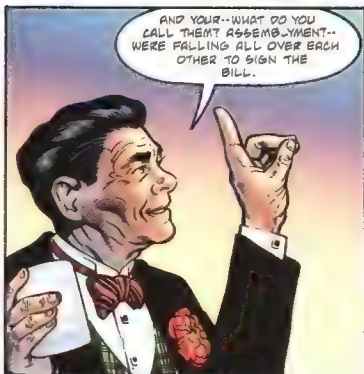
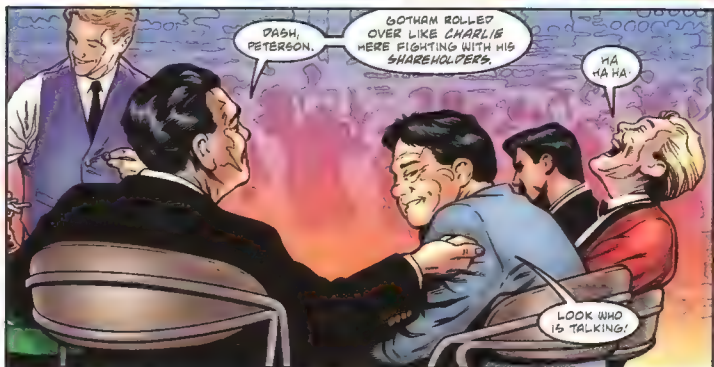
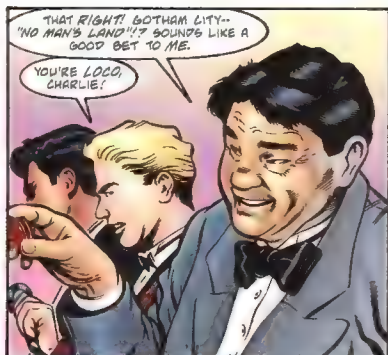
I'VE BEEN
BRUCE WAYNE
FOR A WEEK.

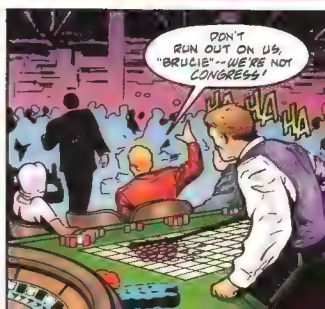
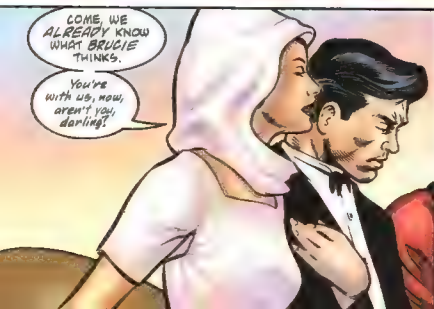


I HATE THIS









I hate losing.

I hate running away.

I don't know what else to do.

They don't fear me.

Not like they fear him.

Where is the Batman?

He's all over me when I screw up—

—when I don't play by his rules—

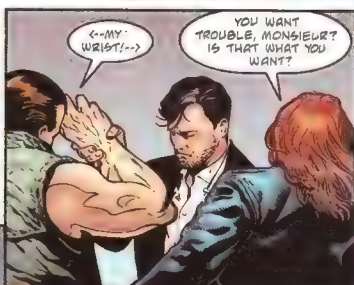
—“My city!” he says...

...never lets me forget it.

So why isn't he here putting the fear of—

Are they roasting a bat?











Unbelievable.

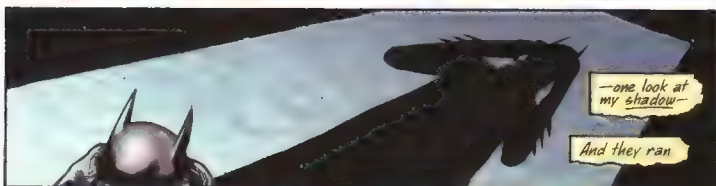
Absolutely unbelievable.



I didn't need to raise a fist.

I didn't need to say a word.

They took one look at me—



—one look at my shadow—

And they ran

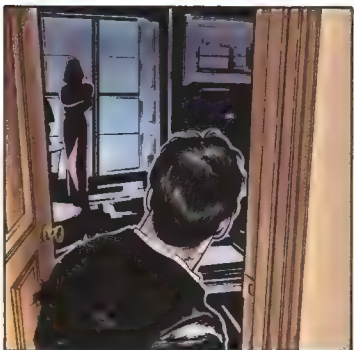
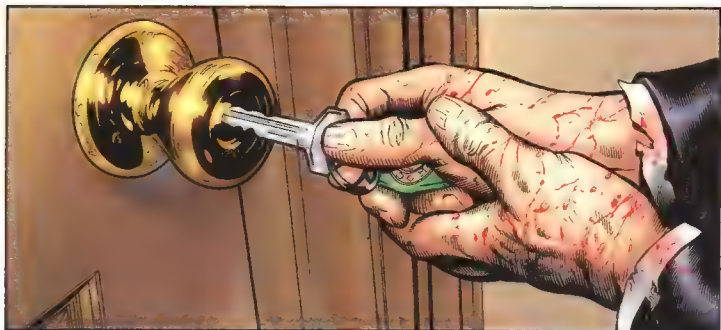


No. Not my shadow.

Now I get it...

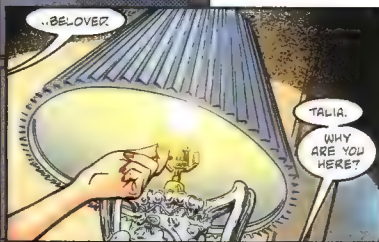


...and I like it.





YOU
LOOK LIKE
HELL...



...BELOVER

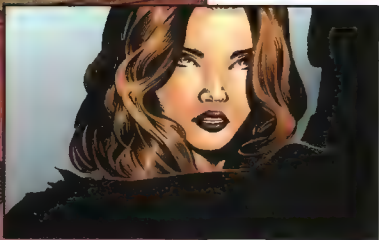
TALIA.
WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?



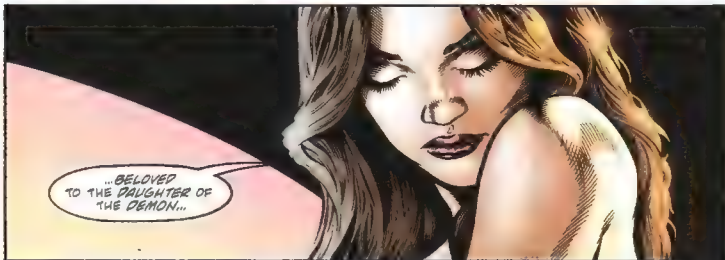
YOU WERE ON
"E: ENTERTAINMENT
TELEVISION."

THE
CAMERAS DO NOT
CAPTURE YOUR
ESSENCE.

YOU'RE
SWEET.
GET
OUT.









ALL THAT
MAGNIFICENT
ABILITY...

...USED
TO PUNISH
YOURSELF.



YOU ARE A
DISGRACE--

TO
YOURSELF TO YOUR
TEACHERS--

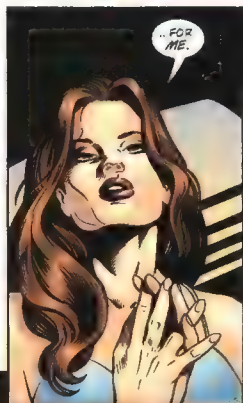


--AND
TO YOUR
PARENTS.



YOU DEFILE
THAT WHICH MAKES
YOU NOBLE AND
GOOD...

...THAT
WHICH
MAKES
YOU...



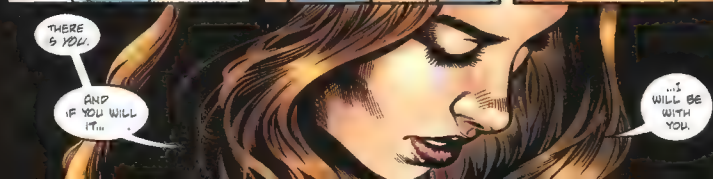
...FOR
ME.



TA...A

...THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT.

NO...



THERE
IS YOU.

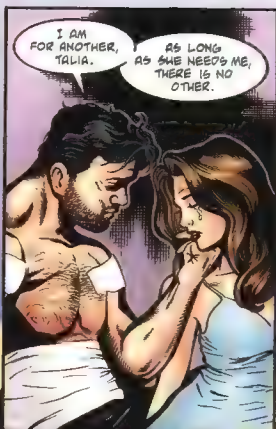
AND
IF YOU WILL
IT...

...I
WILL BE
WITH
YOU.



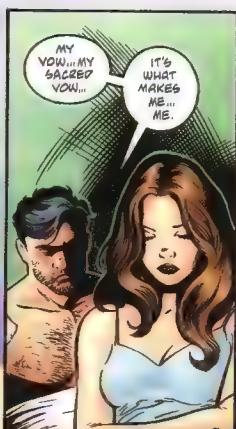
I AM
FOR ANOTHER,
TALIA.

AS LONG
AS SHE NEEDS ME,
THERE IS NO
OTHER.



MY
VOW... MY
SACRED
VOW...

IT'S
WHAT
MAKES
ME...
ME.



I
CAN'T
GO WITH
YOU.

IF I
COULD, YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE ME.
YOU KNEW THAT
WHEN YOU CAME
HERE...

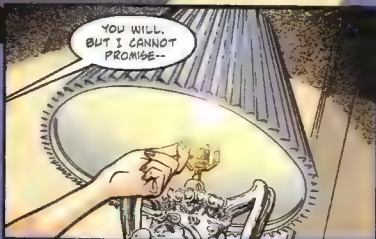


...JUST AS YOU KNEW
THAT IF I FAILED TO
LISTEN, YOU WOULD
HAVE LEFT WITH-
OUT ME.

I'LL
KEEP MY
VOW.

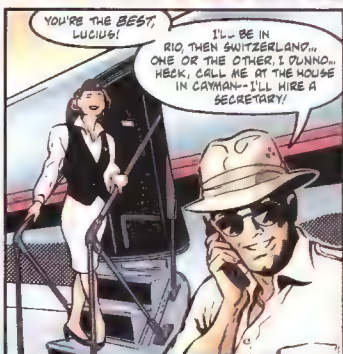
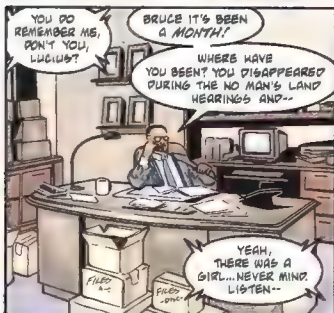


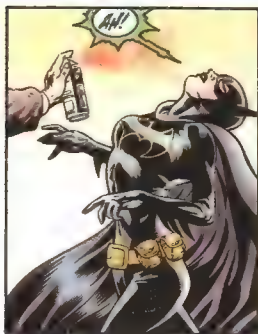
YOU WILL.
BUT I CANNOT
PROMISE--

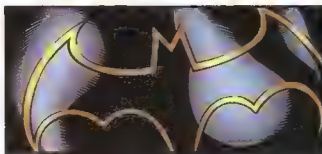
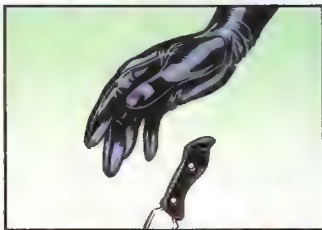


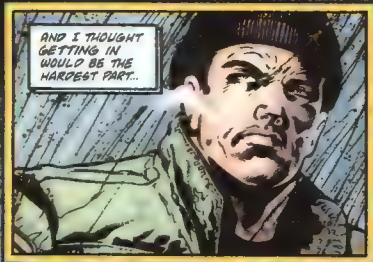
--THAT
I WILL
WAIT.











AND I THOUGHT
GETTING IN
WOULD BE THE
HARDEST PART...

GOTHAM CITY, "NO
MAN'S LAND."

THE SIGHT SHOULDN'T
SHOCK ME.

IT DOES.





NO BUSES.
NO TRAINS,
NO CARS...

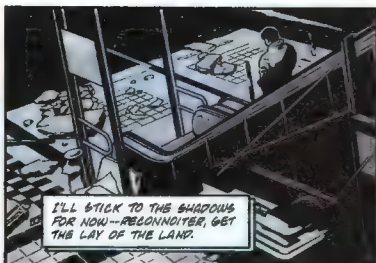
EVEN THE PEOPLE
WHISPER.

THE SILENCE IS
DEAFENING.



KEEP
YOUR
CITY
CLEAN

KEEP
YOUR
CITY
CLEAN



I'LL STICK TO THE SHADOWS
FOR NOW--RECONNOITER, GET
THE LAY OF THE LAND.



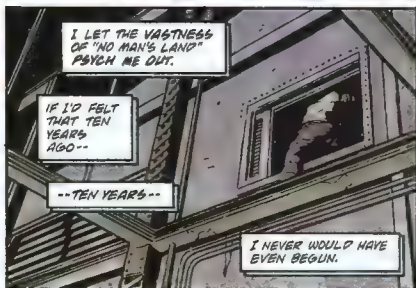
ONE OF THE FIRST LESSONS
I LEARNED WAS NOT TO
LEAP BEFORE I LOOK.

LOOK TOO HARD,
THOUGH...



...AND YOU CAN LOSE THE
WILL TO LEAP.

THAT'S BEEN MY PROBLEM.



I LET THE VASTNESS
OF "NO MAN'S LAND"
PSYCH ME OUT.

IF I'D FELT
THAT TEN
YEARS
AGO--

--TEN YEARS--

I NEVER WOULD HAVE
EVEN BEGUN.

WITH AGE COMES
WISDOM, THOUGH.

TEN YEARS AGO I NEVER
WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO
BUILD THIS PLACE AT ALL.

AFTER BANE BROKE ME, I
SWORE I'D NEVER BE CAUGHT
THAT UNPREPARED AGAIN.

I BUILT SATELLITE
"BATCAVES" ALL
OVER GOTHAM.

MY SAFEHOUSES.

EVEN SO, I NEVER IMAGINED
THAT THEY'D SO CAPRICIOUSLY
TURN THEIR BACKS...



GO TO SLEEP,
BRUCE...



YOU'RE GOING
TO NEED IT.



THE SILENCE...



...IS DEAFENING.

Blasted gangs and
their tagging...

...another night,
another face
full of paint.

Dawn
soon.

Time for the
Huntress.

Never mind how stupid I'll
look in the mask with my
jaw shellacked with paint...

What if someone makes
a connection?

What if he
makes the
connection?

I won't
give it
up.

He'll have to
accept me...

He'll have to...







HUNTRESS



LEFT PIVOT THEN RIGHT LEAD
WHEN SHE LEAPS.



IF SHE THINKS A COSTUME
CHANGE WILL GET HER
ACCEPTANCE...

WITH HER, IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN A MATTER OF
WHEN SHE'LL CROSS
THE LINE.

USURPING
MY ROLE
MAY BE...



WHO IS THAT?



FERAK!

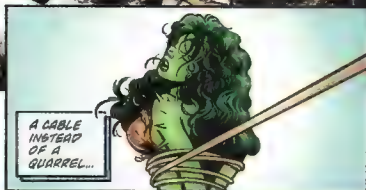
QUESTION ONE,
ASKED AND ANSWERED.

QUESTION TWO: WHAT
IS SHE?



I CAN'T
LET YOU TERRORIZE THE
PEOPLE OF THIS SECTOR
ANY LONGER!

HUNTRESS--GOING FOR HER
CROSSBOW. WON'T LET HER--



A CABLE
INSTEAD
OF A
QUARREL...



...I DIDN'T
THINK
HUNTRESS
COULD
SURPRISE
ME.



THE CIVILIANS HAVE ALL
GONE TO COVER.

LET'S SEE HOW
HUNTRESS
PLAYS THIS...



A large panel showing Batman in his suit, crouching in a snowy city street. In the background, a pink car is partially visible on the left, and a building is on the right. Snow is falling heavily. A small figure of Huntress is running in the distance to the right.

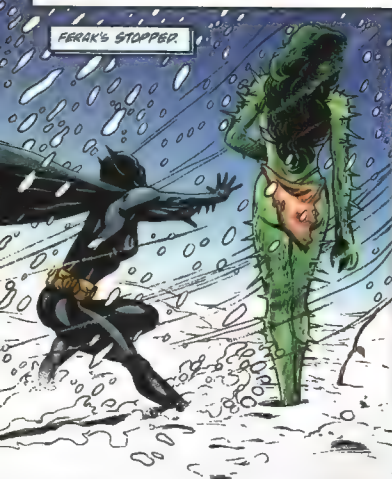
NOT READY TO
MAKE AN APPEARANCE
JUST YET.

STAY BACK.
WATCH.

SEE WHAT
HUNTRESS
TRIES NEXT.

A medium panel showing Batman in mid-air, flying towards the right. He is surrounded by a flurry of snow. A large, green, spiky, vine-like structure is on the right side of the frame.

IF HUNTRESS
GOES TOO
FAR, I'LL
STEP IN.

A medium panel showing Batman landing on the ground. He is facing a large, green, spiky, vine-like structure. Snow is falling around him.

FERAK'S STOPPED.

A close-up panel showing Batman's face in profile, looking towards the green, spiky structure. The structure has a small, orange, fleshy part. Snow is falling around them.

THAT'S GOING
TO HURT.

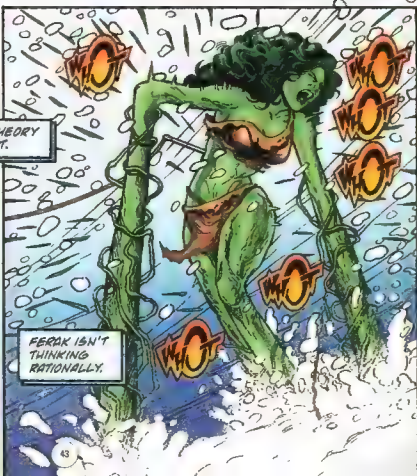


FERAK HAS THE
ADVANTAGE.

SO WHY ISN'T
SHE PRESSING
THE ATTACK?

DEFENSE.

BUT NOT SELF-
DEFENSE...





PADDED HER
COSTUME.

SMART



SHE'LL HURT--



--BUT SHE'LL
SURVIVE.



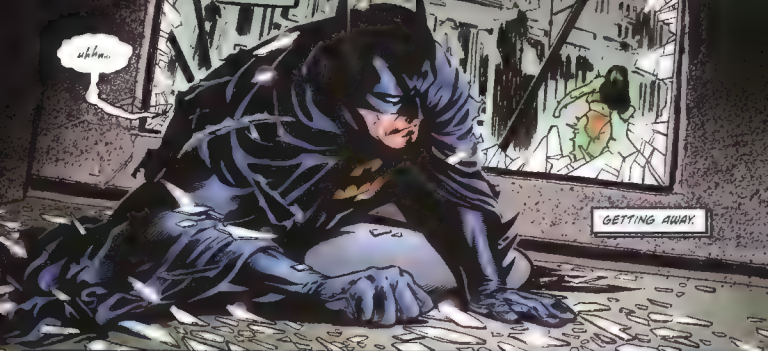


DON'T KNOW WHAT I
CAN DO THAT HUNTRESS
DIDN'T ALREADY TRY.

AND EVEN IF I
DO STOP FERAK,
WHERE DO I
PUT HERT







GETTING AWAY.



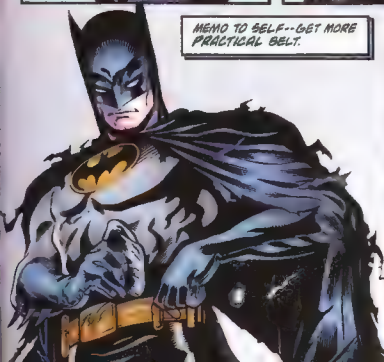
LET
HER.



SHE DOESN'T SEEM
TO ATTACK UNLESS
PROVOKED.



THESE SAMPLES SHOULD
PROVE IT.



MEMO TO SELF--GET MORE
PRACTICAL BELT.



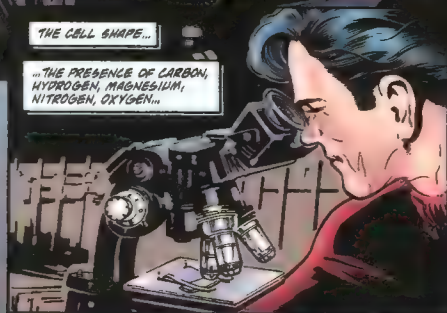
IT'S WHAT I
SUSPECTED.



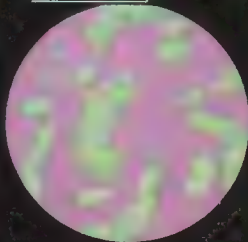
FERAK ISN'T
HUMAN.

THE CELL SHAPE...

...THE PRESENCE OF CARBON,
HYDROGEN, MAGNESIUM,
NITROGEN, OXYGEN...



CHLOROPHYLL.



SHE'S A PLANT.

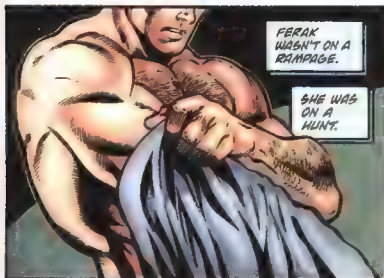


ONE OF IVY'S PETS
MOST LIKELY.



IT'S HER WAY.





FERAK
WASN'T ON A
RAMPAGE.

SHE WAS
ON A
HUNT.

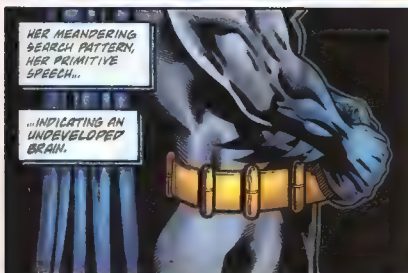


FERAK DIDN'T
GO AFTER
HUNTRESS OR
ME UNTIL WE
GOT IN THE WAY.



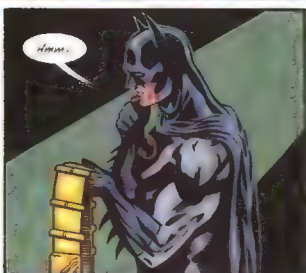
THAT CREATURE PROBABLY
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT
SHE'S LOOKING FOR...

...ONLY THAT SHE'LL KNOW
IT WHEN SHE FINDS IT.

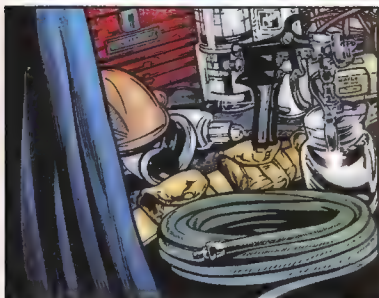


HER MEANDERING
SEARCH PATTERN,
HER PRIMITIVE
SPEECH...

...INDICATING AN
UNDEVELOPED
BRAIN.



Hmm...



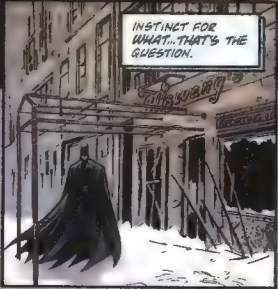
P.KLATZ



CONCLUSION:
FERAK IS A
BABY--NEWBORN,
INEXPERIENCED.

FRIGHTENED

OPERATING
ON INSTINCT
ALONE.



INSTINCT FOR
WHAT...THAT'S THE
QUESTION.



SHE'S LEAVING
NO STONE
UNTURNED



SHE PAUSED HERE, AT
THIS WEED.

FOOD? OR SOMETHING ELSE?

A PIECE OF HOME?



HOME. SHE MIGHT
HAVE WANDERED
AWAY...

MORE LIKELY
SHE WAS
TAKEN.

SHE MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE A
PRIZE CATCH IN HER DORMANT
STATE. A FRESH PLANT, ALIVE
IN THE NML WINTER.

A LOST
CHILD.

WHATEVER
HER ORIGIN,
I KNOW WHAT
I HAVE TO DO.



RATHER, I KNOW
WHAT I WANT THE
HUNTRESS TO DO.

IF SHE'S UP TO
THE TASK...



...IF NO MAN'S LAND--
AND THE UNIFORM
SHE'S CHOSEN TO
WEAR IN IT--HAS
TRULY CHANGED HER
FOR THE BETTER...

WE'LL
SEE...



I'M LEAVING HER
THE ONLY CLUE
SHE NEEDS.



LET'S SEE HOW
SHE DOES.

BUT IF IT ALL GOES SOUTH
I'M PREPARED.



DEFENSIVE
APPROACH.
GOOD
START.



GOING
IN WITH
AN OPEN
MIND.



SHE SEES THE PLANT. GOOD.

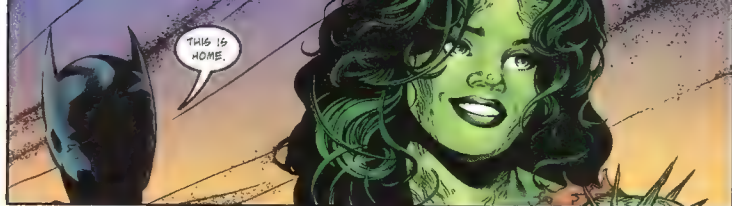
WHAT SHE DOES NEXT...THAT WILL
DETERMINE EVERYTHING.

FOR HER OWN SAKE HUNTRESS BETTER
MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.





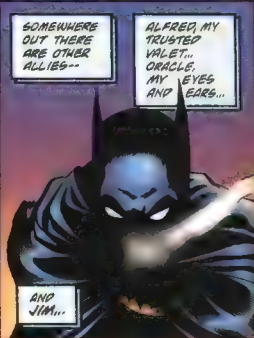






HUNTRESS... WEARING THE BAT.

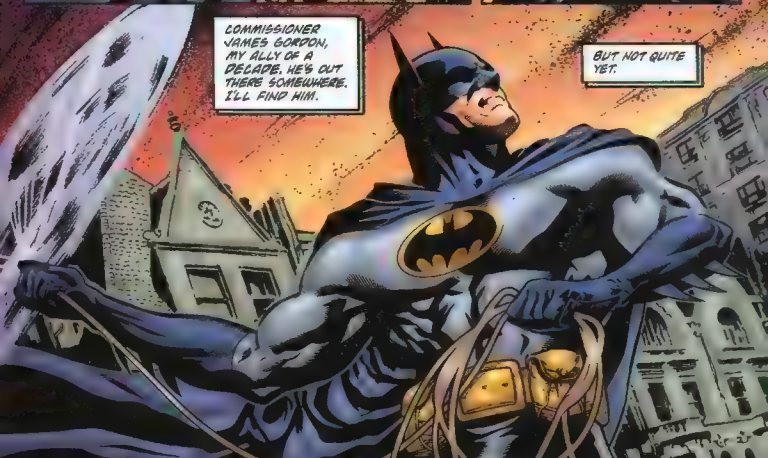
WHO KNOWS. SHE MAY
PROVE VALUABLE
DOWN THE LINE.



SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE
ARE OTHER
ALLIES...

ALFRED, MY
TRUSTED
VALET...
ORACLE,
MY EYES
AND EARS...

AND
JIM...



COMMISSIONER
JAMES GORDON,
MY ALLY OF A
DECADE. HE'S OUT
THERE SOMEWHERE.
I'LL FIND HIM.

BUT NOT QUITE
YET.



HE'LL KEEP. HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN THERE FOR ME WHEN
I NEEDED HIM.



THE IMMEDIATE
CONCERN IS MY
OLD VILLAINS
CARVING UP
MY CITY.



SEE WHAT
SURPRISES THEY
HAVE PLANNED



FOR ALL I KNOW, THE JOKER'S SETTLED
DOWN WITH A WOMAN.

Heh

PITY THE WOMAN.



WHATEVER THE CASE... I
WON'T STOP UNTIL
I HAVE RESCUED
GOTHAM CITY.



BUT FIRST

I'M GOING TO
SOAK UP THE
SILENCE FOR A
LITTLE WHILE.



THE BEGINNING

One Year Later...

BATMAN

THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES IN THESE BOOKS FROM DC:

FOR READERS OF ALL AGES

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES:

THE LOST YEARS

Hilary Bader/Bo Hampton/
Terry Beatty

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES:

K. Puckett/T. Templeton/

R. Burchett/various

BATMAN & SUPERMAN

ADVENTURES: World's Finest

Paul Dini/Joe Staton/
Terry Beatty

BATMAN BEYOND

Hilary Bader/Rick Burchett/
various

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT

ADVENTURES

Kelley Puckett/Mike Parebeck/
Rick Burchett

BATMAN: WAR ON CRIME

Paul Dini/Alex Ross

GRAPHIC NOVELS

BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM

Suggested for mature readers
Grant Morrison/Dave McKean

BATMAN: FORTUNATE SON

Gerard Jones/Gene Ha

BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE

Suggested for mature readers
Alan Moore/Brian Bolland/
John Higgins

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES:

MAD LOVE

Paul Dini/Bruce Timm

BATMAN: NIGHT CRIES

Archie Goodwin/Scott Hampton

BATMAN: BLOODSTORM

Doug Moench/Kelley Jones/
John Beatty

BATMAN: CRIMSON MIST

Doug Moench/Kelley Jones/
John Beatty

BATMAN: THE CHALICE

Chuck Dixon/John Van Fleet

BATMAN/DEADMAN:

DEATH AND GLORY

James Robinson/John Estes

BATMAN/DRACULA: RED RAIN

Doug Moench/Kelley Jones/
Malcolm Jones III

BATMAN: SON OF THE DEMON

Mike Barr/Jerry Bingham

COLLECTIONS

THE KNIGHTFALL Trilogy

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL Part 1:

Broken Bat

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL Part 2:

Who Rules the Night

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL Part 3:

KnightsEnd

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: ANARKY

Alan Grant/Norm Breyfogle/
various

BATMAN: A DEATH IN

THE FAMILY

Jim Starlin/Jim Aparo/
Mike McCullo

BATMAN: A LONELY PLACE

OF DYING

Mary Wolfman/George Pérez/
various

BATMAN BLACK AND WHITE

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: CATAclysm

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: COLLECTED LEGENDS

OF THE DARK KNIGHT

J. Robinson/J.E. Moore/
A. Grant/L. Sale/C. Russell/
K. O'Neill

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT

RETURNS

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Frank Miller/Klaus Janson/
Ilyn Vorley

BATMAN: DARK KNIGHT

DYNASTY

M. Barr/S. Hampton/B. Frank/
S. McDaniels/various

BATMAN: DARK LEGENDS

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: FACES

Matt Wagner

BATMAN: FEATURING

TWO-FACE AND THE RIDDLER

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: FOUR OF A KIND

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: GOTHIC

Grant Morrison/Klaus Janson

BATMAN: HAUNTED KNIGHT

Jeph Leeb/Tim Sale

BATMAN IN THE SIXTIES

Various writers and artists

BATMAN IN THE SEVENTIES

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

Jeph Leeb/Tim Sale

BATMAN: MANBAT

Jamie Delano/John Bolton

BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND

VOL. 1

B. Gale/D. Grayson/
A. Malen/D. Eaglesham/
W. Faucher

BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND

VOL. 2

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: OTHER REALMS

Mark Kneese/Bo Hampton/
Scott Hampton

BATMAN: PRODIGAL

Various writers and artists

BATMAN: SHAMAN

Dennis O'Neill/Ed Hamigan/
John Beatty

BATMAN: STRANGE

APPARITIONS

S. Englehart/M. Rogers/
T. Austin/various

BATMAN: SWORD OF AZRAEL

Dennis O'Neill/Joe Buesada/
Kevin Nowlan

BATMAN: TALES OF THE DEMON

Dennis O'Neill/Neal Adams/
various

BATMAN: THE MOVIES

Dennis O'Neill/various

BATMAN: THRILLKILLER

Howard Chaykin/Dan Brereton

BATMAN: VENOM

Dennis O'Neill/Trevor Von Ecken/
various

BATMAN VS. PREDATOR:

THE COLLECTED EDITION

Dave Gibbons/Andy Kubert/
Adam Kubert

BATMAN VS. PREDATOR II:

BLOODMATCH

Doug Moench/Paul Gulacy/
Terry Austin

BATMAN VS. PREDATOR III:

BLOOD TIES

Chuck Dixon/Rodolfo Damaggio/
Robert Campanella

BATMAN: YEAR ONE

Frank Miller/David Mazzucchelli

THE GREATEST BATMAN

STORIES EVER TOLD Vol. 1

Various writers and artists

THE GREATEST JOKER

STORIES EVER TOLD

Various writers and artists

CATWOMAN: THE CATFILE

Chuck Dixon/Jim Balent/
Bob Smith

NIGHTWING: ROUGH JUSTICE

Chuck Dixon/Scott McDaniels/
Karl Story

NIGHTWING: TIES THAT BIND

Dennis O'Neill/Alan Grant/
various

NIGHTWING: A KNIGHT

IN BLODHAVERN

Chuck Dixon/Scott McDaniels/
Karl Story

ROBIN: A HERO REBORN

Chuck Dixon/Tom Lyle/
Bob Smith

ARCHIVE EDITIONS

BATMAN ARCHIVES Vol. 1

(DETECTIVE COMICS 27-50)

BATMAN ARCHIVES Vol. 2

(DETECTIVE COMICS 51-70)

BATMAN ARCHIVES Vol. 3

(DETECTIVE COMICS 71-86)

BATMAN ARCHIVES Vol. 4

(DETECTIVE COMICS 87-102)

All by R. Kane/D. Finger/B. Spry/
various

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT

ARCHIVES Vol. 1

(BATMAN 1-4)

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT

ARCHIVES Vol. 2

(BATMAN 5-8)

All by Bob Kane/Bill Finger/various

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

ARCHIVES Vol. 1

(SUPERMAN 75,

WORLD'S FINEST 71-85)

B. Finger/E. Hamilton/E. Swan/
various

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CALL 1-888-COMIC BOOK FOR THE NEAREST COMICS SHOP OR GO TO YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE

Visit us at www.dccomics.com

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

NML, Day 312

THE NO MAN'S LAND IS AN EMBARRASSMENT, A BETRAYAL OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF THIS COUNTRY! TO DENY CITIZENSHIP, EXISTENCE, EVEN, TO OUR OWN PEOPLE IS CRIMINAL.

FOR THE BETTER PART OF A YEAR POLITICIANS HAVE SQUABBLED AND ARGUED, SQUANDERING TIME AND RESOURCES...

...ALL THE WHILE LEAVING THE SOUL OF GOTHAM--THE PEOPLE--TO SUFFER!

LEXCORP SAYS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO REBUILDING GOTHAM CITY!

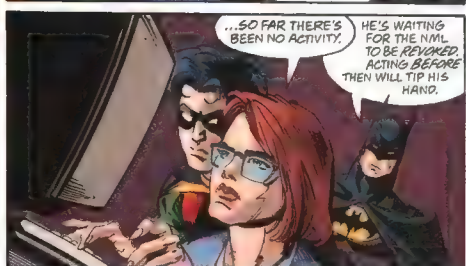
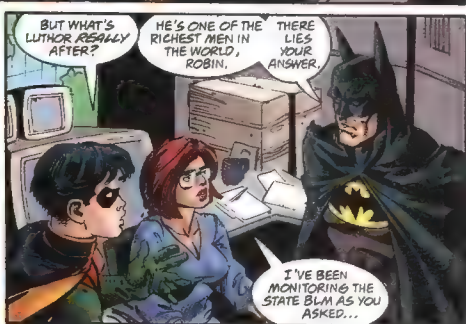
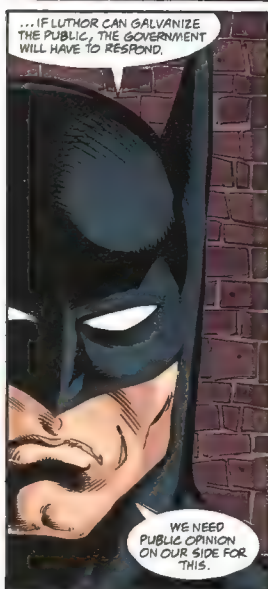
STARTING TODAY...

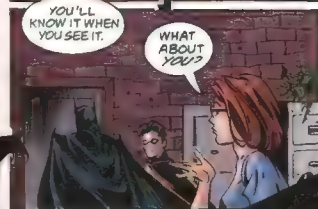
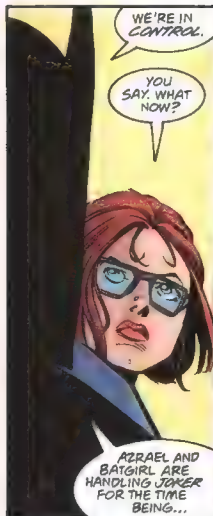
... and things are starting to move VERY quickly indeed

SHELLGAME
Part I
Gambits

WRITER: GREG RUCKA PENCILLER: SERGIO CARIELLO
INKER: MARK PENNINGTON COLORIST: PAMELA RAMBO
SEPARATOR: WILDSTORM FX LETTERER: JOHN COSTANZA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOSEPH ILLIDGE EDITOR: DARREN VINCENZO
GROUP EDITOR: DENNIS O'NEIL

BATMAN created by BOB KANE







YOUR
PROBLEM
IS...



YEEP!

...YOU
DON'T
APPRECIATE
ART!



I ASK
YOU...

...WHAT'S
A MAN GOT
TO DO TO GET
SOME ATTEN-
TION IN THIS
BURG?



WELL?

CRIMINY
JEEPS,
HERE, KIDS,
GIMME
SOME-
THING!



SECOND-STRINGERS!
HE SENDS SECOND-
STRINGERS AFTER
ME...

...THE BAT-
CHICKADEE
AND THE ANGEL
BOY!



TELL
YOU WHAT
THE PROBLEM
IS...



I DON'T GET NO RESPECT, THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

GEEZ, SOUND LIKE THAT FATSO, WHAT'S HIS NAME...

ANGERFIELD?

NO, YOU IDIOT!



THE COP, THE FAT ONE, WHAT'S HIS NAME...

...BULLOCK! THAT ONE!



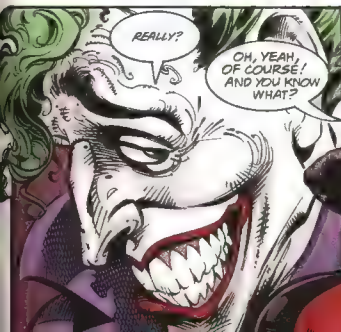
I DON'T EVEN RATE THE BOY BLUNDER..

JUST NOT FAIR.

AW, MR. J, DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE THE BEST, YOU ROCK!

AND IF THEY DON'T SEE THAT, WE'RE JUST GONNA MAKE 'EM SEE, THAT'S ALL!

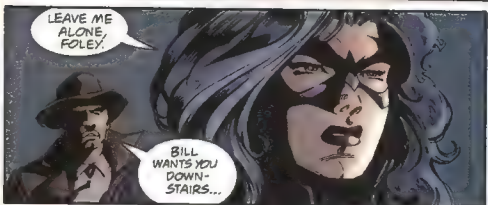


REALLY?

OH, YEAH, OF COURSE! AND YOU KNOW WHAT?



...I KNOW JUST WHERE WE CAN GET YOU INTO THE SPOT-LIGHT.



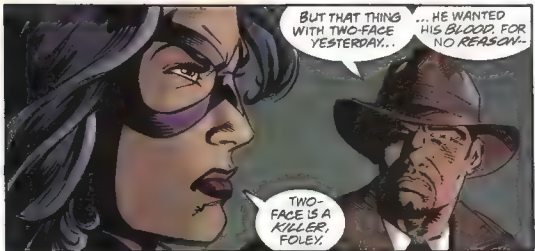


HE'S DONE A GOOD JOB, DON'T GET ME WRONG...



... ALL THESE PEOPLE, I MEAN, HE'S KEPT THEM SAFE.

HE'S KEPT US SAFE.



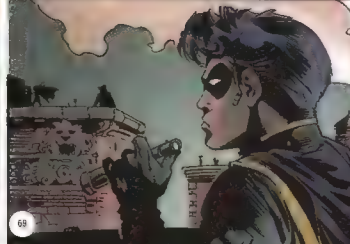
BUT THAT THING WITH TWO-FACE YESTERDAY...

... HE WANTED HIS BLOOD, FOR NO REASON--

TWO-FACE IS A KILLER, FOLEY.



... BUT HE WAS IN CUSTODY...





...PROCEEDING,
MERCY?

ON
SCHEDULE...

... THE SURROUNDING
TWENTY SQUARE BLOCKS
HAVE BEEN **LOCKED
DOWN** PER YOUR
ORDER, SECURING
OUR PERIMETER...

... **COBBLEPOT** IS UNHAPPY
ABOUT LOSING SO MUCH OF
HIS TERRITORY, BUT **BANE**
EXPLAINED THE SITUATION
TO HIM AS YOU REQUESTED.
IT'S TAKEN CARE OF...

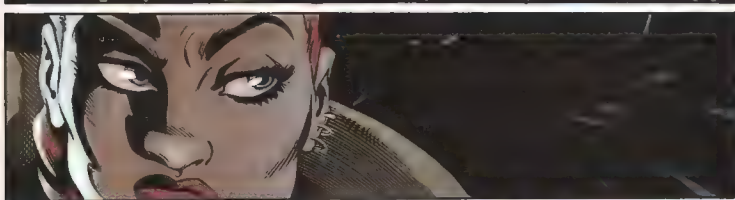
...WE SIGNED UP **488
LABORERS** IN THE LAST
12 HOURS, ALL READY TO
BEGIN WORK AT FIRST
LIGHT...

... AND **NEWSCHANNEL**
REPORTS THAT **PUBLIC OPINION**
HAS SWUNG TWENTY POINTS
IN YOUR FAVOR...

LEXCORP STOCK, NOT
COINCIDENTALLY, ALSO
JUMPED TWENTY
POINTS.

EXCELLENT,
MERCY.

I'LL BE
GETTING READY
FOR BED NOW.





LUTHOR

LET'S
TALK.



I HOPE YOU
DIDN'T HURT
HER PERMA-
NENTLY.

GOOD
HELP IS SO
HARD TO
FIND.



SHE'LL
LIVE.



DELIGHTED
TO HEAR
THAT.



IS THERE
A POINT TO
THIS
VISIT?...



... OR ARE YOU
JUST PLANNING ON
LOOMING OMINOUSLY
AT ME FOR THE REST
OF THE NIGHT?



I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
PLANNING.

THIS
IS *MY*
CITY.



FOR
NOW.

I'M HERE ON A
HUMANITARIAN
MISSION, VIGILANTE.

UNLESS
YOU CAN PROVE
OTHERWISE...?



YOU'RE
BLUFFING.

IF YOU HAD
ANYTHING, YOU
WOULDN'T BE
HERE TO
THREATEN
ME.



THIS IS NOT
A THREAT,
LEX.

THIS IS A
WARNING
YOU
DON'T WANT
ME TO TAKE
YOU DOWN...

... AND
SHE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
START
ANY-
THING.



DON'T
BOTHER
MERCY.



HE WAS
JUST
LEAVING.



GET
BANE.

NOW.



NML Day 313

Each of my news feeds is showing me the life I've lived this past year.

... sharing no man's land with the rest of the world.

... LEGALITY OF HIS ENTRY! THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T ALLOW THIS MAN TO DEFEY THEIR DOMESTIC POLICY!

-- YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT, MATT! ENTERING THE NO MAN'S LAND WAS THE ILLEGAL ACT...

... AND THEY CAN'T JUST ARREST THE MOST PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN IN AMERICA.

ONCE LUTHOR LANDED, WHAT COULD THE GOVERNMENT DO?

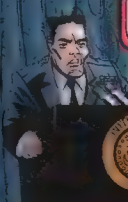
What indeed?

Officially NM.. is no longer part of the country



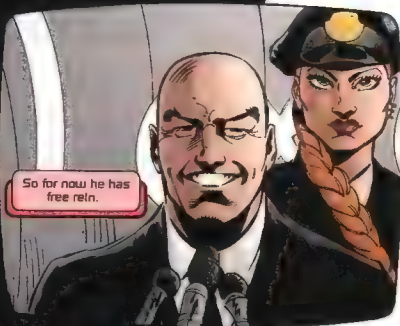
...which means that **ONCE** someone **ENTERS** it, they're on foreign soil in a way.

To stop Luthor would take a **MILITARY ACTION** at this point.

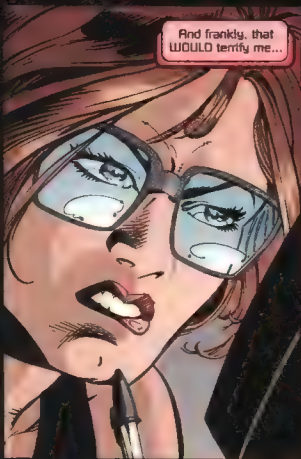


And **TOD MANY** people in Congress are in Luthor's **POCKET**. One way or another.

Besides, it would be a **PR DISASTER**.



So for now he has free rein.



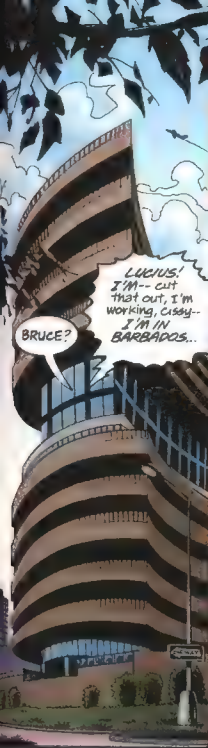
And frankly, that **WOULD** terrify me...

... if I didn't know **HIS** plan.



NEED A SECURE LINE TO D.C., LUCIUS FOX.

GIMME A SEC.



...WORKING ON
MY TAN.

--hee hee giggle
oh, my! That's, um,
y'know, giggle.

LUCIUS!
I'M-- cut
that out, I'm
working, cissy--
I'M IN
BARBADOS...

BRUCE?

BEGINNING TO
WONDER IF YOU HAD
FORGOTTEN ABOUT
ME HERE IN D.C.?



NO, NO, NEVER!--
kitty, you gotta
stop that--

--but
BRUCIE--

I JUST
HAVE
BEEN,
YOU
KNOW,
TRAPPED.

UNDER A
BLONDE?

WHAT?
CAN'T REALLY
HEAR
YOU!

NOTHING, NEVER MIND.
HAVE YOU SEEN THE
NEWS, BRUCE?

ABOUT
LUTHOR?
YES, THAT'S
ACTUALLY
WHY I'M
CALLING...



...MET THIS GUY
HERE THE OTHER
DAY... FROM GOTHAM
TOO, IT TURNS
OUT...

...ooh, put
the suntan oil
THERE...

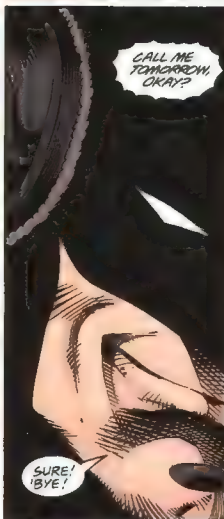
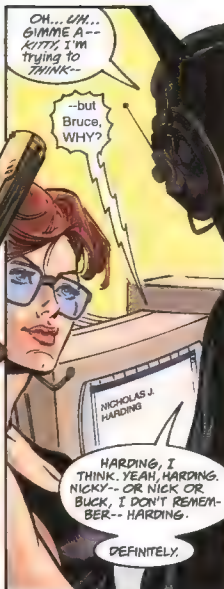
... AND HE SAYS
LUTHOR WANTED TO
BUY HIS REAL ESTATE
HOLDINGS IN GOTHAM!
SAID HE OFFERED HIM
TOP DOLLAR!



WE HAVEN'T
BEEN APPROACHED
BY LUTHOR, HAVE
WE, LUCIUS?

--ooh giggle
it's so SLIPPERY
you're not gonna--

TO SELL OUR
LAND, HAVE WE?..

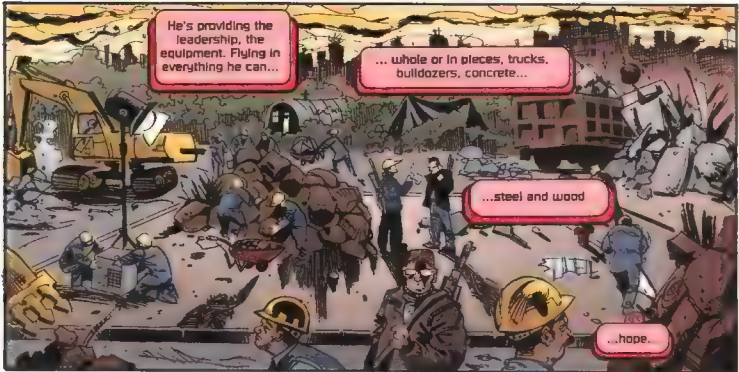






NML, Day 314

... and Lex Luthor couldn't have asked for a MORE eager work force.

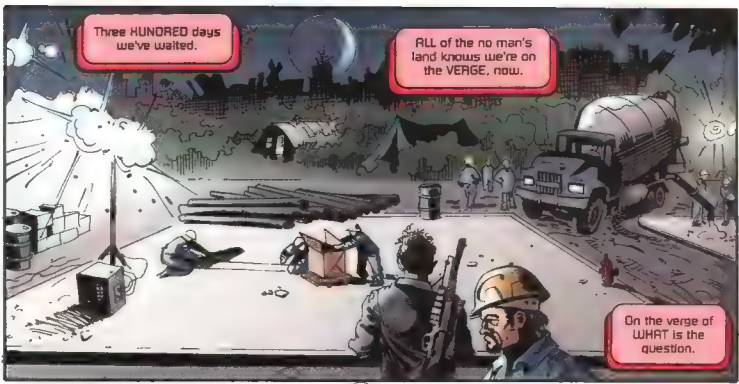


He's providing the leadership, the equipment. Flying in everything he can...

... whole or in pieces, trucks, bulldozers, concrete...

...steel and wood

...hope.



Three HUNDRED days we've waited.

ALL of the no man's land knows we're on the VERGE, now.

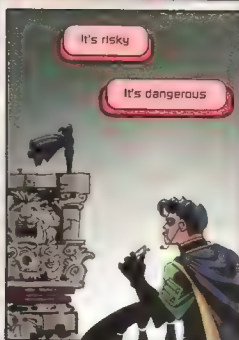
On the verge of WHAT is the question.



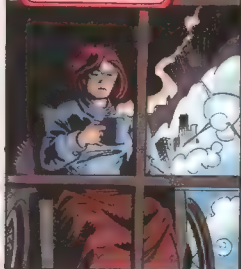
I KNOW HIS PLAN

It's risky

It's dangerous



Two hundred days ago he asked me to trust him .

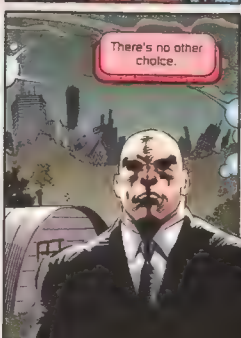


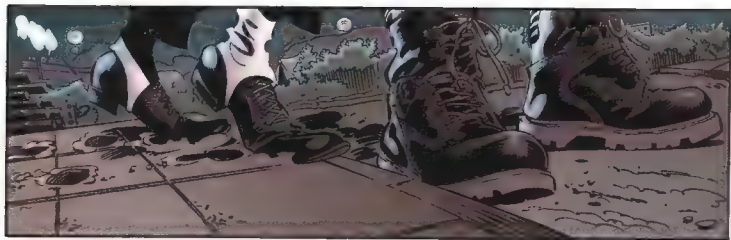
then I told him I did

Now, I absolutely must



There's no other choice.





...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

No man's land,
day 321

You know what it
takes to *rebuild* a city?

It's not *time*. You
can *make* time.

It's not hope. Humanity--
no man's land
notwithstanding-- has an
infinite capacity for hope.

It's money.

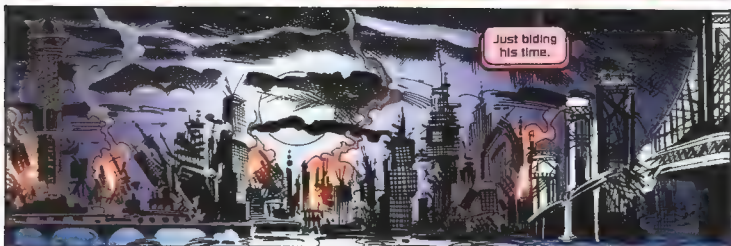
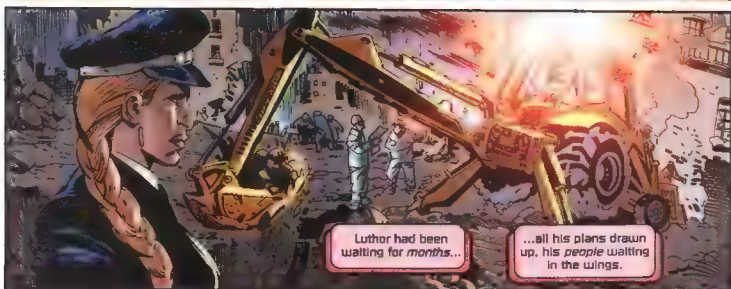
The kind of money that's *alive*,
that *moves* and *breathes* and
breeds and *never stops*...

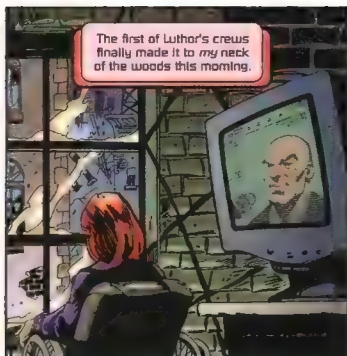
...Bruce Wayne
money...

SHELLGAME Part II

WRITER: GREG RUCKA PENCILLER: SERGIO CARIELLO
INKER: MARK PENNINGTON COLORIST: PAMELA RAMBO
SEPARATOR: WILDSTORM FX LETTERER: JOHN COSTANZA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOSEPH ILLIDGE EDITOR: DARREN VINCENZO
GROUP EDITOR: DENNIS O'NEIL

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

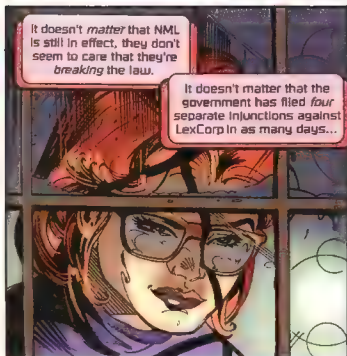




The first of Luthor's crews finally made it to *my* neck of the woods this morning.

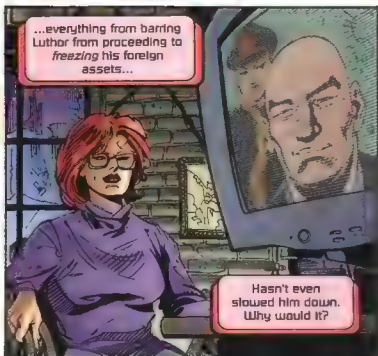


Been watching them for hours...the survey teams... the security guards.



It doesn't *matter* that NML is still in effect, they don't seem to care that they're *breaking* the law.

It doesn't matter that the government has filed *four* separate injunctions against LexCorp in as many days...



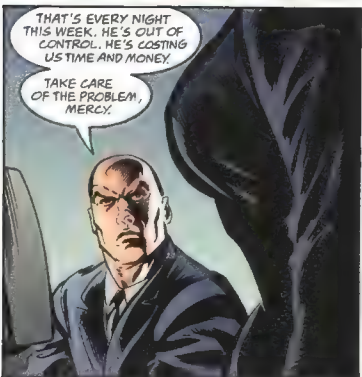
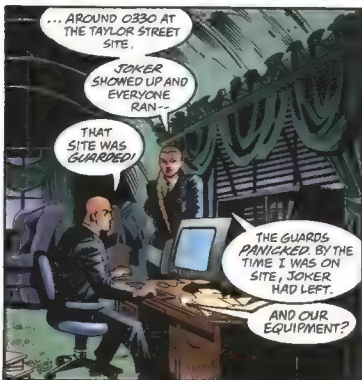
...everything from barring Luthor from proceeding to freezing his foreign assets...

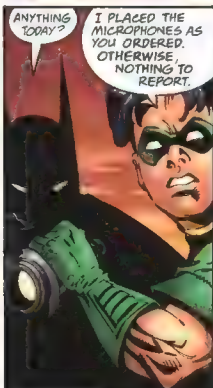
Hasn't even slowed him down. Why would it?

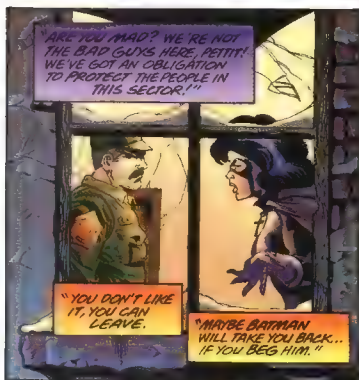
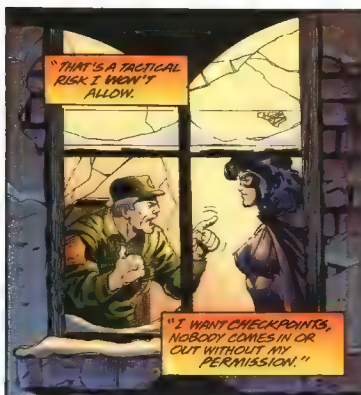
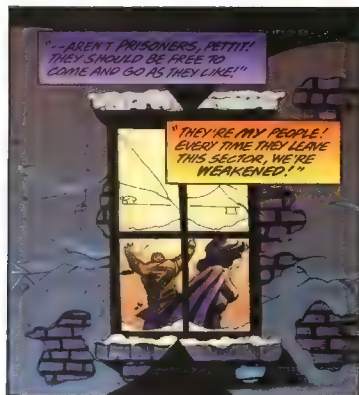


He's got *both* public opinion *and* the media on his side.

Right now, he's *golden*.









SHE'LL MAKE IT. SHE'S STRONG.

YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE ME OR YOURSELF?



WE HAVE A COUNT ON PETTIT'S MEN?

FOURTEEN, ALL ARMED, ALL TRAINED BY HIM. LIKE A WANNABE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT. MOST WERE GCPD ONCE.

IF SHE TRIES A COUP...?



SHE CAN'T TAKE THEM ALL OUT, AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO MIGHT SUPPORT HER IS FOLEY. EVEN THAT'S A MAYBE.

PETTIT'LL KILL HER IF SHE CHALLENGES HIM.

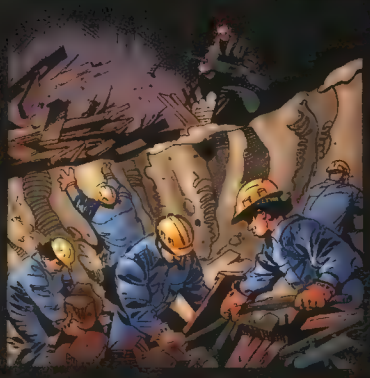
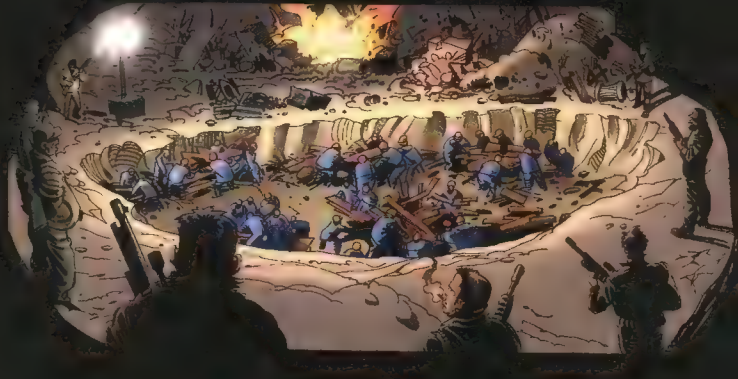


KEEP WATCHING. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

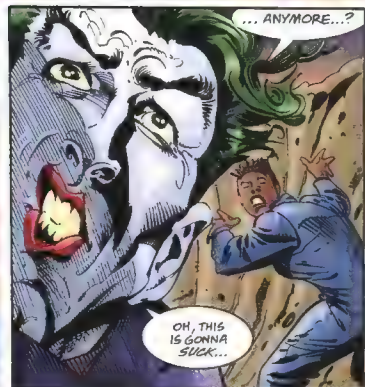
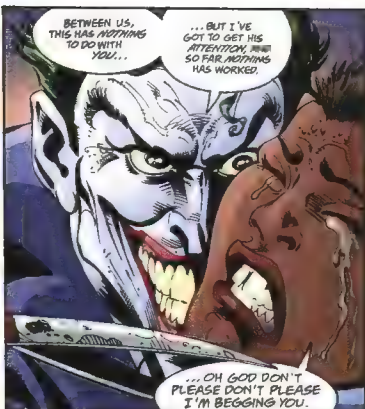
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

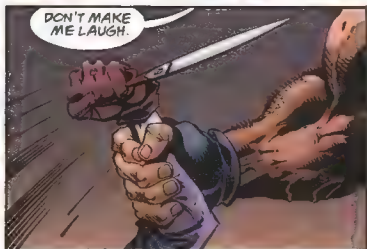


BABY-SITTING.







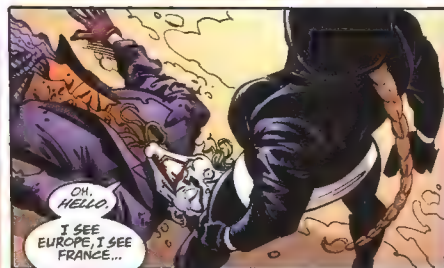




MY MISTAKE.
HERE I WAS, HOPING
FOR THE RAMBUNC-
TIOUS RODENT...

... AND I
GET THE WWF
REJECT
INSTEAD.

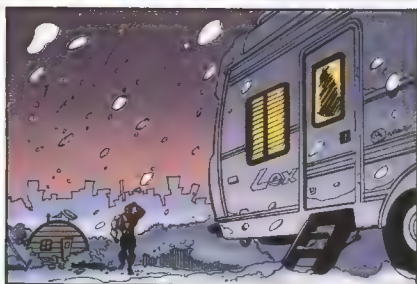
TALK
TALK
TALK



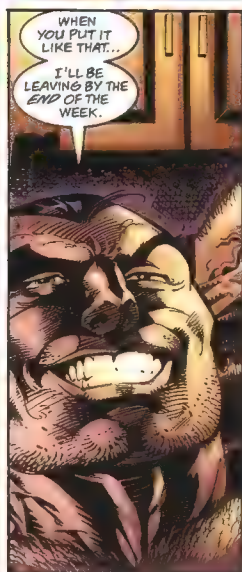
OH,
HELLO.
I SEE
EUROPE, I SEE
FRANCE...











NML, Day 323

I hack the WGBS feed and treat myself to GOOD MORNING METROPOLIS and Betsy Lord's babble...



...NOW IN THE STUDIO, THREE SURVIVORS OF THE NO MAN'S LAND...

...MRS. MINERVA FREDANG AND HER DAUGHTER MITZI...

...AND MR. ROBERT ENGLESSEN, A REPORTER FOR WNYT.

MRS. FREDANG, I'D LIKE TO START WITH YOU...

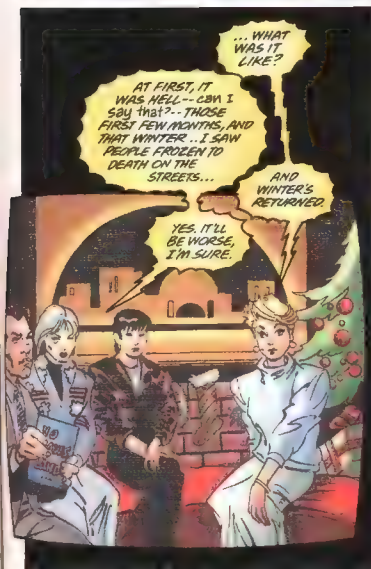


... WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

AT FIRST, IT WAS HELL-- CAN I SAY THAT?-- THOSE FIRST FEW MONTHS, AND THAT WINTER... I SAW PEOPLE FROZEN TO DEATH ON THE STREETS...

AND WINTER'S RETURNED

YES, IT'LL BE WORSE, I'M SURE.



YOUR MOTHER SAYS "AT FIRST." WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY THAT, MITZI?

WELL, BETSY... THE LONGER IT LASTED, THE MORE THOSE OF US WHO WERE LEFT PULLED TOGETHER.

I... I CAN'T QUITE EXPLAIN IT. OF COURSE, THERE WERE STILL THE LUNATICS... BUT FOR US, FOR REGULAR PEOPLE... WE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE DO.



I'VE GOT A
CHAPTER ABOUT
IT IN MY BOOK,
NO MAN'S
LAND: A VIEW
FROM THE
INSIDE...

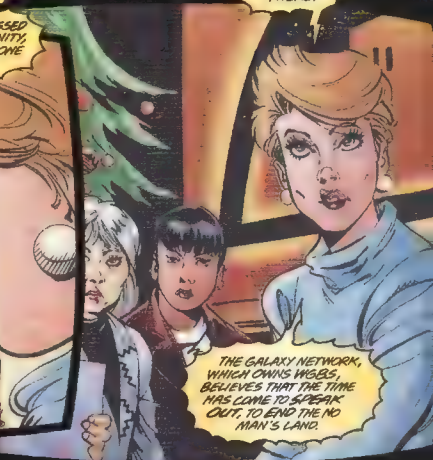
...THE HUMAN SPIRIT
CANNOT BE CRUSHED BY A
DECISION OF POLICY. I
WITNESSED THE BASEST
SAVAGERY IN THE NAME--
THAT'S WHAT WE CALLED
IT ON THE INSIDE...

STIRRING
ACCOUNTS
FROM PEOPLE
WHO WERE
THERE.

...BUT I ALSO WITNESSED
THE HEROISM OF HUMANITY,
REACHING OUT TO HELP ONE
ANOTHER.

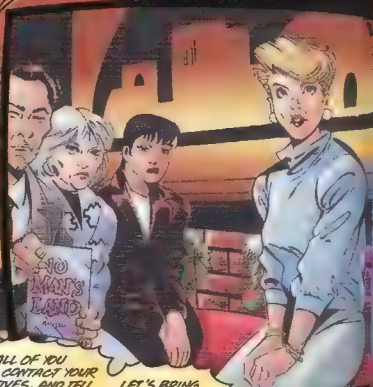


NO ONE
GAVE UP.
NO ONE.



THE GALAXY NETWORK,
WHICH OWNS WGBS,
BELIEVES THAT THE TIME
HAS COME TO SPEAK
OUT, TO END THE NO
MAN'S LAND.

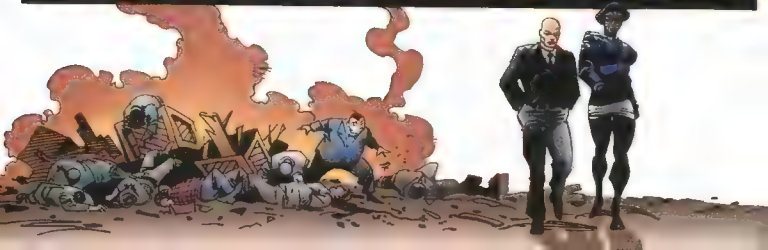
PUBLIC OPINION IS
CLEARLY ON GOTHAM'S
SIDE. NOW WE NEED TO
MAKE OUR LEADERS DO
WHAT'S RIGHT...



WE URGE ALL OF YOU
WATCHING TO CONTACT YOUR
REPRESENTATIVES, AND TELL
THEM NOW'S THE TIME
TO END IT.

LET'S BRING
GOTHAM CITY
HOME, BACK INTO
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.







BETWEEN COBBLEROT AND THE CLOWN, WE'RE IN DANGER OF FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE. TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS.

OUR SECURITY IS ALREADY STRETCHED TOO THIN, LEX. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO UNTIL NML IS LIFTED.

YES.



WHAT'S THE WORD FROM WASHINGTON?

THE PRESIDENT IS STONE-WALLING.

HE SHOULD KNOW BETTER...

... GET A NOTE TO THE WHITE HOUSE. ASK IF THEY WANT A VIDEOTAPE IN OUR POSSESSION...



... FINDING ITS WAY TO THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY TAPE, LEX.



THEN MAKE ONE.

WAIT... WAIT, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING..



... BROADCASTING ON NEWSCHANNEL... I'LL TURN ON THE TELEVISION...

MR. FOX!
MR. FOX!!!

--WHEN THE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
WAS SIGNED AT 10:30
EST THIS MORNING.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES
IS PROUD TO BE PART OF
THE COALITION THAT
HELPED MAKE THIS
HAPPEN.

ACCESS TO GOTHAM
WILL BE RESTORED IN THE
NEXT WEEK, BEGINNING WITH
DELIVERIES OF EMERGENCY
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT,
AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE
ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS.

THE GOAL IS TO
OFFICIALLY REOPEN
GOTHAM CITY ON
JANUARY 1, NEW
YEAR'S DAY.

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN...
NO MAN'S LAND
IS OVER!

OH, AND
BRUCE?

WE
DID
IT!

YES,
WE
DID.

NOW
WE DO THE
REST.



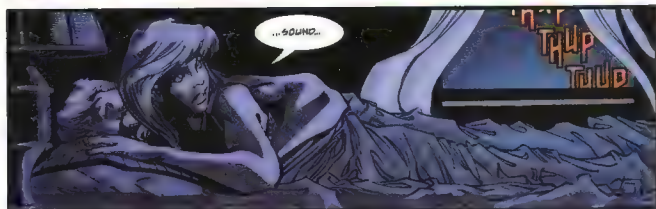
...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

NML Day 333.
November 29th

They came with
the dawn...

THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP



...SOUND...

THUP
THUP
THUP



...SARA...?

THUP THUP THUP THUP



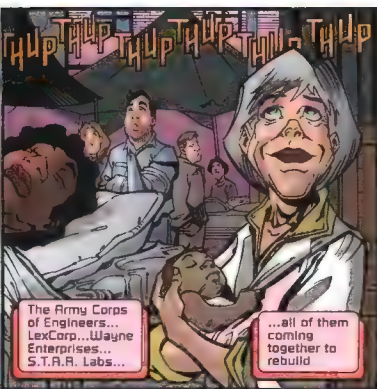
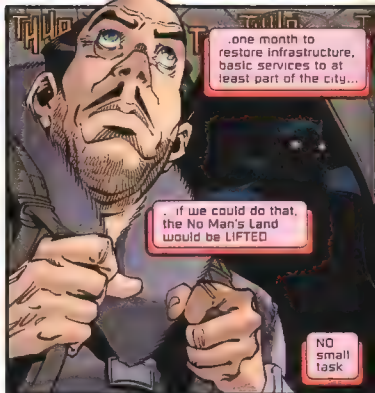
SARA?
WHAT IS
IT?

OH JIM...

I THINK...
IT MIGHT FINALLY
BE OVER...

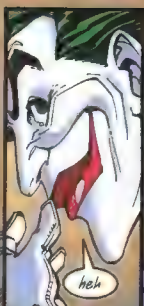
...I
THINK IT'S THE
END.

THUP
THUP
THUP





I'M REAL
SORRY THEY'RE
GONNA END NO
MAN'S LAND
WITHOUT YOU,
MISTER J.



heh



IDIOT!

THEY'RE
NOT ENDING
IT WITHOUT ME!
HAVEN'T YOU
BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION?

...choking...
meeeee...

IT'S AN
INVITATION!
A CHALLENGE!
A PARE,
EVEN!

THEY'VE
TOLD ME WHERE, WHEN,
AND HOW GOTHAM IS TO
BE SAVED!



I CAN'T DISAPPOINT
THEM, HARL.

IT'S A BUILT-IN
AUDIENCE, IT'S THE
CHANCE FOR MY
GREATEST SHOW
EVER.

SOMETHING
THAT'LL REALLY
LEAVE THEM
STUNNED...LEAVE
THEM BEGGING
FOR MORE...

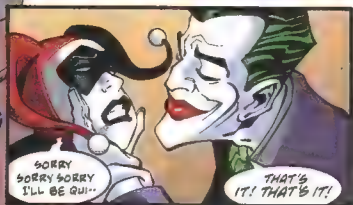


HARLEY!



THIS
IS REALLY...
GREEN, YOU
KNOW?

BABY,
I...



SORRY
SORRY SORRY
I'LL BE QUI...

THAT'S
IT! THAT'S IT!



BOYS! COME HERE!
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF
WORK TO DO!

ALWAYS
GLAD TO
HELP..

December 4th.

...LEXCORP WILL HAVE
POWER RESTORED TO SECTIONS
OF OLD GOTHAM BY THE END
OF NEXT WEEK.



COLONEL TORO?

STILL
WORKING ON WATER
TREATMENT. THE THIRTY-
SECOND AND NINETY-
EIGHTH DIVISIONS
ARRIVED YESTERDAY,
BRINGING US TO OVER
2500 ENGINEERS ON
THE GROUND.

MISTER FOKT

WAYNE ENTERPRISES
HAS HIRED 10,000+PLUS
WORKERS FROM BLUHAVEN AND
FURTHER SOUTH.

BUT WE'RE STILL
SUFFERING THEFTS OF MATERIAL. PEOPLE WHO DON'T
BELIEVE NO MAN'S LAND WILL END.

WE'LL SIMPLY
PROVE THEM WRONG
THEN.

IF THAT'S
ALL, I SUGGEST WE GIVE
THE MEDIA THEIR DAILY
SOUND BITE.



WE WERE
HIT LAST NIGHT
TOO, LEX. CRATES Z117
AND Z118 ARE
MISSING.

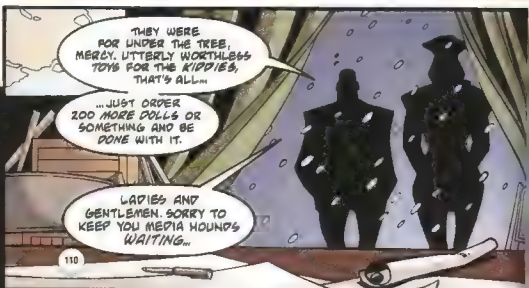
DON'T
WORRY ABOUT IT. LEX?

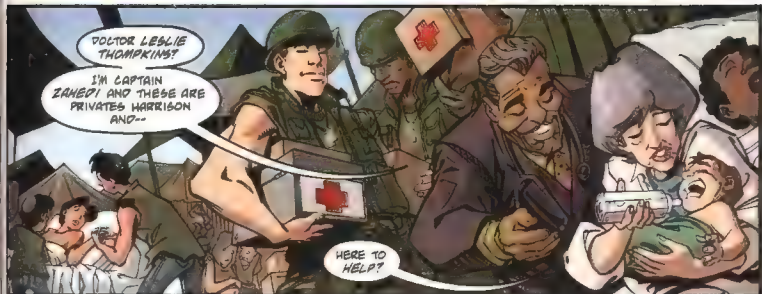


THEY WERE
FOR UNDER THE TREE,
MERCY. UTTERLY WORTHLESS
TOYS FOR THE KIDPIES,
THAT'S ALL...

...JUST ORDER
200 MORE DOLLS OR
SOMETHING AND BE
DONE WITH IT.

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN. SORRY TO
KEEP YOU MEDIA HOUNDS
WAITING...





DOCTOR LESLIE THOMPSON?

I'M CAPTAIN ZANE! AND THESE ARE PRIVATES HARRISON AND--

HERE TO HELP?



--BEAUMONT... UH... YES, MA'AM!

GREAT!

I'VE GOT TWENTY-FOUR INFANTS HERE IN NEED OF INOCULATION, TWELVE OF WHOM ARE ON FORMULA--

--AND THAT'S JUST POST-NATAL--



PEOPLE HAD BABIES HERE?

NIGHTS GOT COLD, CAPTAIN.

ASIDE FROM THOSE I DELIVERED HERE, I PERSONALLY KNOW OF AT LEAST EIGHTEEN OTHERS.



WHICH, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN--

--MAKES FORTY-TWO TIMES THAT THE STORK WAS ABLE TO SNEAK UNDER THE RADAR.

ALFRED! WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU LOOK WELL, AS ALWAYS.



IF I DO, IT IS IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO YOUR EXCELLENT CARE OVER THE YEARS.

I COME IN HOPES THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THIS INVITATION TO DINE WITH MISTERS WAYNE AND GRAYSON THIS CHRISTMAS EVE...

HOW CHARMING! AND YOU EVEN FOUND PAPER!

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY REFUSE?

December 16th

WATER is already running from Grant Park to TRICORNER, and everyone is HOPEFUL.

Well

ALMOST everyone

UPDATE?

NOT MUCH TO REPORT, BOSS. THE SECTORS HOLD, AND ALL ATTENTION IS ON LEXCORP.

Supported by the A.C.E., Wayne Enterprises, S.T.A.R. Labs, and a Gotham POPULACE ready to work their fingers to the BONE, LexCorp has already achieved the IMPOSSIBLE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY IS STILL NIL.

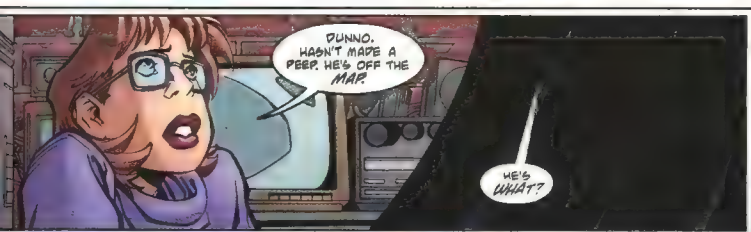
HOW'S THE TEAM?

BLACKGATE HAS BEEN SECURED. PETTIT'S STRONG MEN ARE UNDER SURVEILLANCE--

YOU DO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW SOMEONE IS AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING, RIGHT?

Um, CAN I HELP YOU?

WHERE'S JOKER?



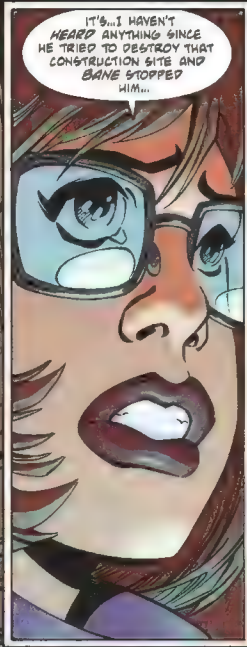
DUNNO.
HASN'T MADE A
PEEP. HE'S OFF THE
MAP.

HE'S
WHAT?

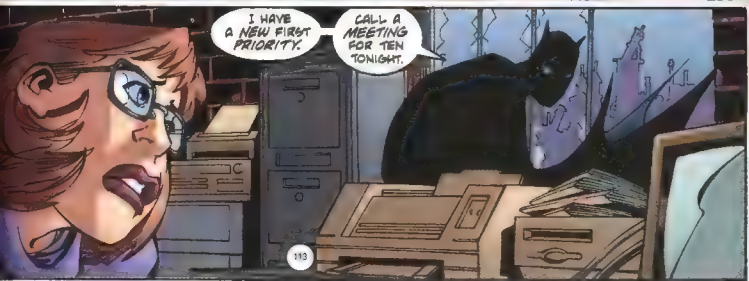


UM. THERE'VE
BEEN SOME ROBBERIES,
BUT NOTHING THAT WOULD
NECESSARILY--

HOW
LONG
NOW?



IT'S...I HAVEN'T
HEARD ANYTHING SINCE
HE TRIED TO DESTROY THAT
CONSTRUCTION SITE AND
BANE STOPPED
HIM...



I HAVE
A NEW FIRST
PRIORITY.

CALL A
MEETING
FOR TEN
TONIGHT.



WELCOME HOME, JIM.

WELCOME HOME...



LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?

WELL, COMMISSIONER... YOU KNOW THAT BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, RIGHT?

YOU CALLING ME UGLY, HARVEY?

PERISH THE THOUGHT, LIEUTENANT ESSEN...



IF WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS...

JAMES GORDON, ON BEHALF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, I HEREBY PRESENT YOUR NEW CHARTER...



...REAUTHORIZING YOU AS COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF GOTHAM.



WE'LL HAVE MORE VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING FOR YOU AFTER CHRISTMAS.

WELCOME BACK, JIM. NICE TO BE IN CONTROL ONCE MORE, huh?

YOU'VE NO IDEA, BEN.



NO! YOU
WILL ATTEND!
EVERYONE
WILL
ATTEND!

I--I
JUST THINK
CHRISTMAS EVE
OF ALL TIMES...
EVERYONE SHOULD
BE ALLOWED TO
GO WHERE THEY
WANT TO,
PETTIT. YOU
CAN'T--



--LIKE
HELL!

WHAT I CAN'T DO IS
ALLOW OUR NUMBERS TO
BE WHITTLED AWAY, OUR
MORALE TO BE
DESTROYED...

WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE A--A CHRISTMAS FEAST!
ATTENDANCE MANDATORY FOR THE
SECTOR! AND IF YOU'VE GOT A
PROBLEM WITH THAT, FOLEY--



--HEY, HEY! EASY,
PETTIT!!

BACK
DOWN, PETTIT!
NOW!



SEE
YOU THERE,
BOTH OF
YOU.



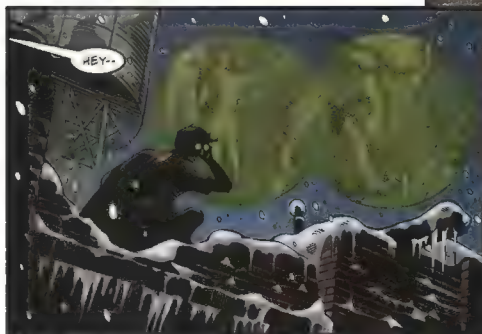
HE'S...HE'S
LOSING IT, BIG
TIME...

YOU COULD
PROBABLY MAKE IT
OUT OF HERE,
YOU KNOW...

NO. NO. I'M
STAYING.

YOU'RE
RIGHT, HE
IS LOSING
IT...

...AND
WHEN HE SNAPS, I'LL
HAVE TO STOP
HIM...



HEY--

--I MISS
ANYTHING
GOOD?

HEY,
YOURSELF!

UM, DOES A
NEAR SHOOTING COUNT?



WHAT?
SHOOTING?

WHO?

IT'S--IT'S OKAY, IT DIDN'T
GO DOWN.

PETTIT WAS ABOUT
TO CAP FOLEY, BUT SHE
STOPPED HIM...



YEAH.
SHE'S LOOKED ABOUT THAT
HAPPY FOR A MONTH
NOW.

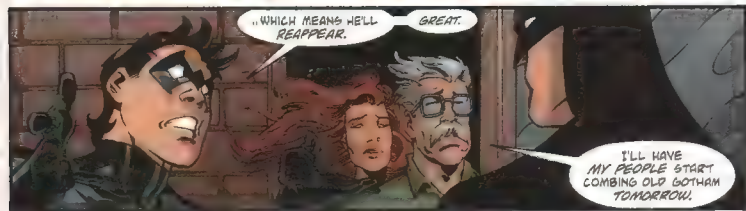
SORRY,
BRO...

NOT YOUR
FAULT...



SPEAKING
OF WHICH...

...I
BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN
SUMMONED



December 21st.

Funny how no one was complaining when there was nobody to LISTEN

--PERRO FALTADO POR MESES!

...I SAID TO HER, I SAID THOSE ARE MY TOMATOES I PLANTED IN OCTOBER...

--WATER ON, WATER OFF, WATER ON, GUMBUDDY WANNA SPLAIN THIS TO ME, PLEASE?

...MY FATHER, FOR DAYS... BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE... PLEASE HELP ME...

...DECÍLELO ERA CATUQUAN Y ELLA ME ELIMINÓ DESCUBIERTO--NAKED YET!--Y ENTONCES ELLA DIJO...

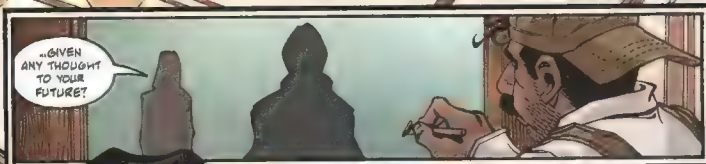
Not like Dad and Sarah and the rest don't already have their hands full.

FOR CHRISTMAS AND NOW THEY'RE GONE...

...THE CRIB WAS EMPTY! NO! SHE DIDN'T JUST CRAWL AWAY, LISTEN TO ME...

...AFRAID SANTA'S GONNA GET STUCK AND THEN...

RENEE, YOU GOT A MINUTE?



...GIVEN
ANY THOUGHT
TO YOUR
FUTURE?

I WAS HOPING TO
LIVE THROUGH NEW YEAR'S,
LIEUTENANT.

AREN'T
WE ALL?

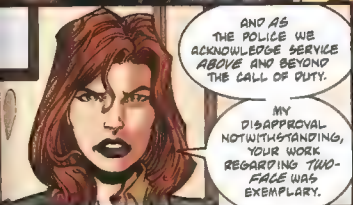
I DON'T
APPROVE OF
WHAT YOU AND JIM
DID WITH REGARD
TO TWO-
FACE...

...WE'RE
NOT VIGILANTES,
DETECTIVE.
WE'RE THE
POLICE.



AND AS
THE POLICE WE
ACKNOWLEDGE SERVICE
ABOVE AND BEYOND
THE CALL OF DUTY.

MY
DISAPPROVAL
NOTWITHSTANDING,
YOUR WORK
REGARDING TWO-
FACE WAS
EXEMPLARY.



FOR THIS
AND OTHER
REASONS, IT IS
MY PLEASURE
TO PROMOTE
YOU TO THE RANK
OF DETECTIVE,
SECOND
GRADE.



CONGRATULATIONS,
DETECTIVE MONTOYA.

THANK YOU,
LIEUTENANT.

...

THANK
YOU.



December 24TH
Christmas Eve

...DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
THE BETTER
PRESENT...

...A HOT
MEAL, OR BEING
ABLE TO ACTUALLY
SEE IT.

NO,
THE GIFT
IS THAT
WE'VE MADE
IT THIS
FAR.

I AGREE
WITH SARAH,
DAD.

I STAND
CORRECTED...

...AFTER ALL,
THE WOMEN IN
THIS FAMILY ARE
ALWAYS
RIGHT...

(...I SHOULD KNOW
BETTER THAN TO ARGUE
WITH YOU AND YOUR
MOTHER.)

(THIRTY YEARS,
YOU STILL HAVEN'T
LEARNED!)

RENEE?
TRANSLATE?

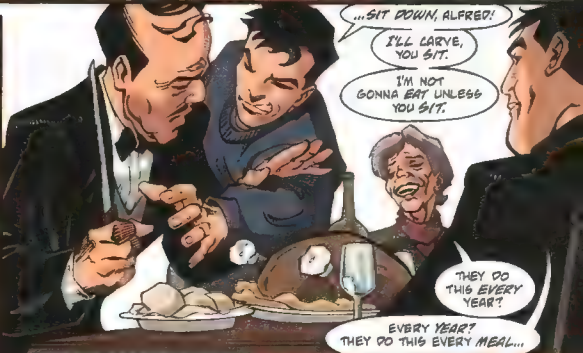
(WE'VE GOT
ESPECIALLY SMART WOMEN
IN THIS FAMILY...)

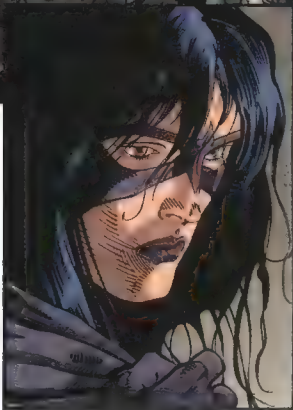
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
RENEE, WHAT'RE YOU
GUYS SAYING?
C'MON...

(...ONLY MY
SISTER COULD LOOK
THROUGH THE NML WITH
A PROMOTION!)

WAIT,
PROMOTION,
DID HE JUST SAY
PROMOTION?

(HEAR,
HEAR! RENEE, WE
ALL WANT YOU TO
KNOW...)







...MY
GOD...



--COME
IN, PETTIT! ANY-
ONE--



J-JO-J-
JOKER...



← SKETCH ← J-
JOKER! ← SKETCH ←
COPY ME? ← SKETCH ←
BACKUP! POST SEVEN
NEED... ← SKETCH ←

...PETTIT!
← SKETCH ← JO ← SKETCH ←
...POST FOUR
← SKETCH ←

ON YOUR
FEET! EVERYBODY ON
YOUR FEET!

ARE
YOU CRAZY!? YOU
CAN'T SEND THEM
OUT THERE,
PETTIT!

JOKER
DIDN'T JUST
SHOW UP HERE IN
THE LION'S DEN SO
HE COULD BE
SHOT BY
YOU!

THIS IS
A TRAP!





...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

December 24th
Christmas Eve

When JOKER struck,
he struck at the
WEAKEST link.

Billy PETTIT and his
pseudo-MILITIA, the
self-proclaimed STRONG
MEN of Gotham City...

"T'WAS THE
NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS AND ALL
THROUGH THE DIGS,
NOT A CREATURE WAS
STIRRING..."

...NOT
EVEN A
FIG!

COME
ON, BILLY-
BOY!

WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?

MADNESS versus
MADNESS

COME
AND GET
ME!

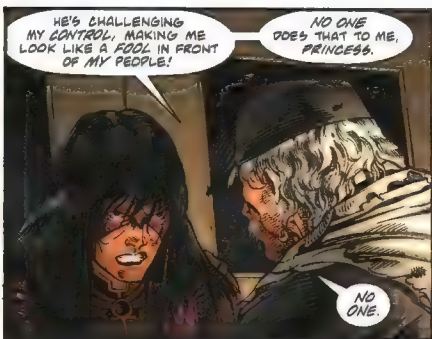


OUT OF THE WAY, HUNTRESS!

TIME
SOMEONE
PUT DOWN THAT
LUNATIC ONCE
AND FOR
ALL!

DAMMIT,
PETTIT! CAN'T YOU
SEE-- THAT'S JUST WHAT
JOKER WANTS YOU
TO DO?

HE'S
TRYING TO
DRAW YOU
OUT!



HE'S CHALLENGING
MY CONTROL, MAKING ME
LOOK LIKE A FOOL IN FRONT
OF MY PEOPLE!

NO ONE
DOES THAT TO ME,
PRINCESS.

NO
ONE.



HENDRICKS!
GET THE SECOND
SQUAD ARMED AND
DEPLOYED.

DEEVER,
MAKE SURE THE
EXITS ARE
SECURED.

ANDERSON,
YOU AND FIRST
SQUAD WITH
ME.



YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN ALL TALK AND NO
ACTION, PIGGY!

I'M
GONNA KILL
HIM.

I'M GONNA
DO WHAT *SHOULD*
HAVE BEEN DONE
YEARS AGO.



WHAT YOU AND
GORDON AND BATMAN
NEVER HAD THE GUTS
TO DO.

I'M
GONNA
KILL HIM
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.



WATCHA
WAITING
FOR, BILLY?
LOSING
YOUR
NERVE?

KISS THIS, BILLY!

OR IS POOR
PETTIT JUST ANOTHER
WIMP COP LIKE GORDON
AND THE REST OF THE
SAUSAGE?



ALL TALK, PETTIT.
THAT'S ALL YOU'VE EVER
BEEN AND THAT'S ALL
YOU'LL EVER BE.

TALKIE
TALKIE
TALKIE
TALKIE!



THINK THIS
THROUGH, PETTIT!
IT'S A TRAP!

GET OUT
OF THE WAY,
HUNTRESS.

OR I SWEAR
TO GOD, I'LL SHOOT
YOU WHERE YOU
STAND.



ON MY
MARK...

THREE..



HE'S
GOING
TO GET US
ALL KILLED,
ISN'T
HE?

NOT
IF I CAN
HELP
IT.

...TWO...



NOT WHILE
THERE'S A BREATH
IN MY BODY...

...ONE...





NUMBER
EIGHT, YOUR TURN.
THIS IS YOUR BIG
MOMENT!

NOW
GET OUT
THERE AND
MAKE 'EM
CRY!

THAT'S
A GOOD BOY.
WE'RE ALL SO
PROUD!

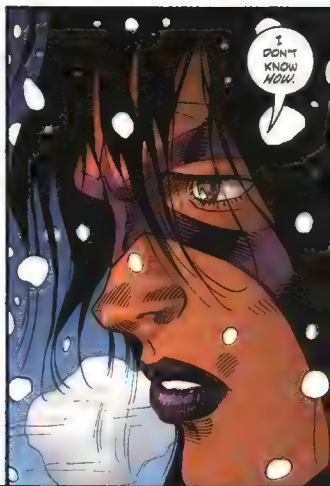
BILL!
BILL, IT'S ME,
IT'S--

VIFES

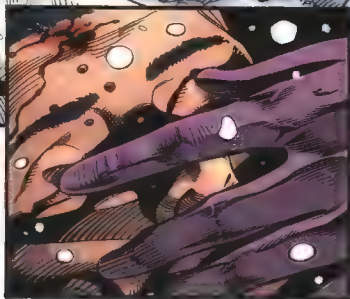
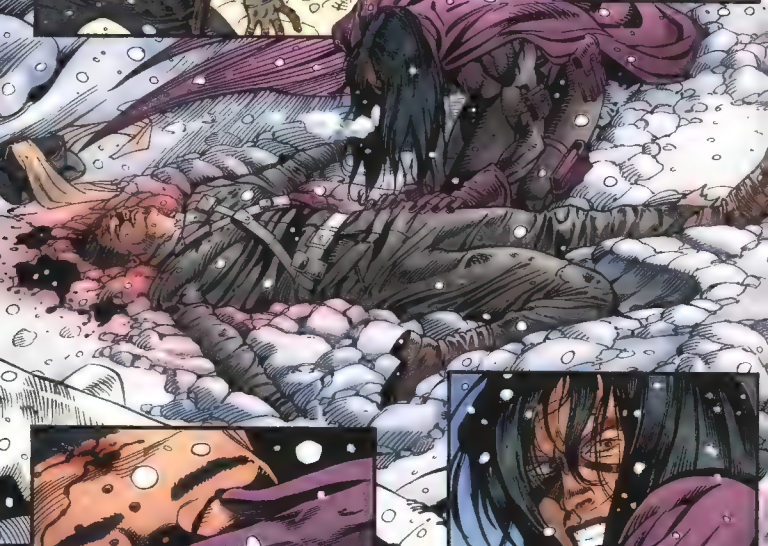
NUMBER
NINE, YOU'RE
UP!

I LOVE
CHRISTMAS...











HU--



FOLEY TRUSTED YOU!

HE TRUSTED YOU TO PROTECT HIM!



THEY ALL DID!

WE ALL DID!



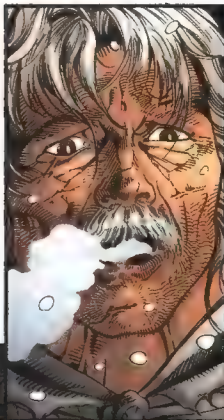
YOU'RE THE WORST OF US, YOU KNOW THAT, PETTIT?

AND I KNOW HOW TO SOLVE AT LEAST ONE PROBLEM



YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, PETTIT--

K'BLAMM





...BABIES, IN PARTICULAR. I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE FOUR OF THE LITTLE CHERUBS INSIDE, ARE THERE NOT?

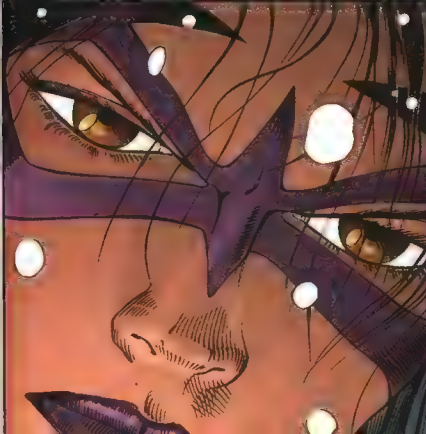
YOU'RE, UHM... BLOCKING THE DOOR, TOOTS.

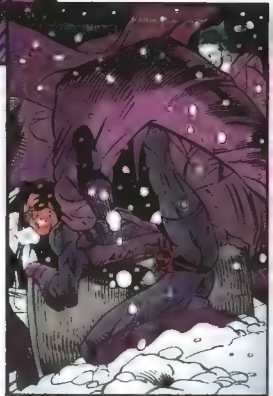
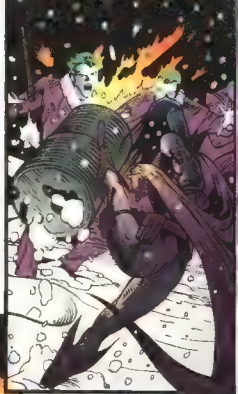
I KNOW.

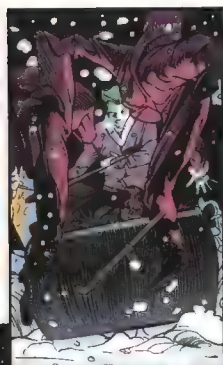


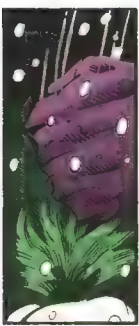
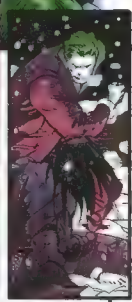
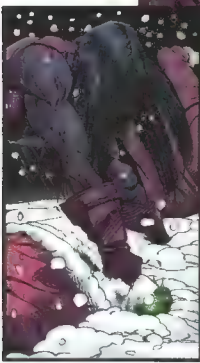
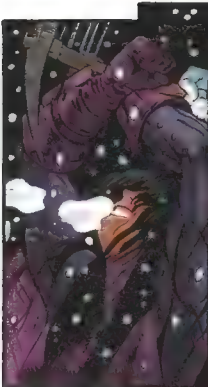
THAT'S YOU VERSUS LIKE, WHAT, TWENTY OF US?

AND THANKS TO BILLY, THERE, I'D POINT OUT THAT WE'RE NOW ARMED.











TOUGH LITTLE THING,
AREN'TCHA?

-sigh-

IT'S
BEEN
FUN.

ka-
KLICK

FLOYD

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the vena and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

On December 24th Christmas Eve, Joker finally made his MOVE.

attacking Billy Pettit's CAMP, a battle of MADMEN

PETTIT never had a CHANCE

YOU'VE BEEN A REAL SPORT, DOLL. KNOW THAT? THANKS FOR PLAYING...

...AND NOW WE HAVE A LOVELY PARTING GIFT FOR YOU.

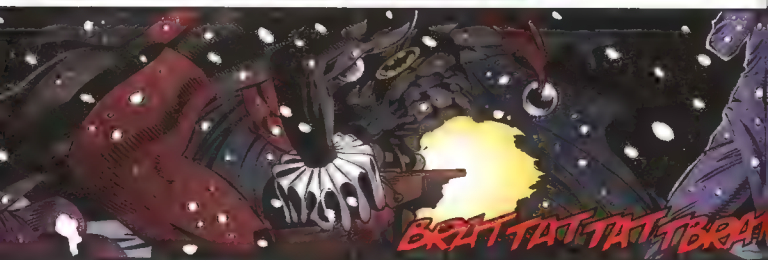
BITE ME.

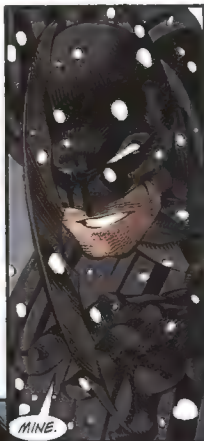
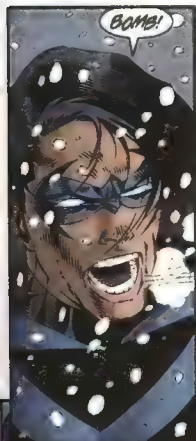
HUNTRESS held her ground, fighting off TWELVE goons taking three BULLETS ..

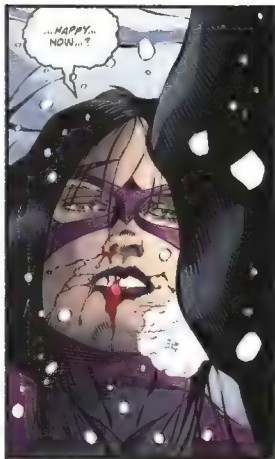
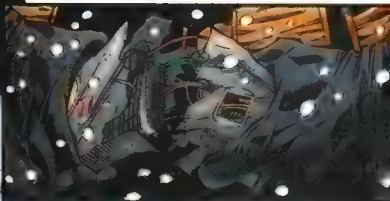
.. protecting the EIGHTY innocent men, women, and children who had been ORDERED to attend Pettit's Christmas FEAST.

She held her ground

we' NEVER forget that





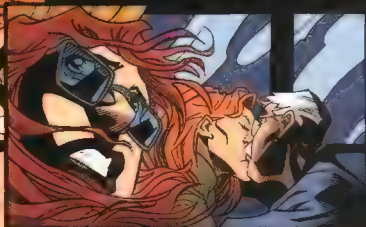
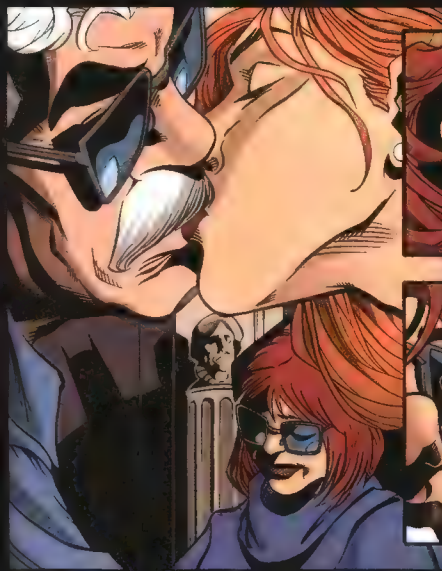


IT'S
NOT MUCH,
BUT...

...YOU CAN
PUT IT IN YOUR
OFFICE.

JIM!
THIS IS... WHERE'D YOU
GET THIS?

THE
COMMISSIONER
GETS CERTAIN
PERKS.



I
LOVE
YOU.

I LOVE--
BARBARA, SOMETHING...



...WRONG?

-JIM.
WE HAVE
A SERIOUS
PROBLEM.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS TO YOU,
TOO.

JOKER
ATTACKED PETTIT'S
CAMP.

HUNTRESS
HELD HIM OFF.
SHE'S IN CRITICAL
NOW. MAY NOT
MAKE IT.

SHE
SAID JOKER
WAS AFTER THE
INFANTS.

I CHECKED.
HE'S KIDNAPPED BABIES
FROM ALL ACROSS THE NO
MAN'S LAND.

I'M
GOING
TO CONTACT
ORACLE,
HAVE HER
CALL MY
PEOPLE.

IT'S HIS
STATEMENT, JIM. HE WANTS TO
MURDER HOPE.

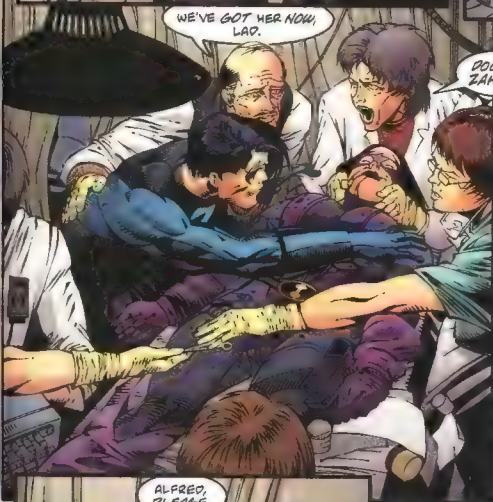


I'LL GET AS MANY
OFFICERS AS POSSIBLE,
ASSEMBLE THEM AT
CENTRAL.

WE'LL
MEET YOU
THERE



THIS IS ORACLE WITH A PRIORITY
ONE ALERT--





...ORACLE HAS
CONFIRMED THAT
LEXCORP IS MISSING
SEVENTY ROUNDS
OF SEMTEX.

SO WE
KNOW JOKER
CAN MAKE A BIG
EXPLOSION...

WE'VE RECEIVED
THIRTY-SIX MISSING
PERSONS REPORTS.

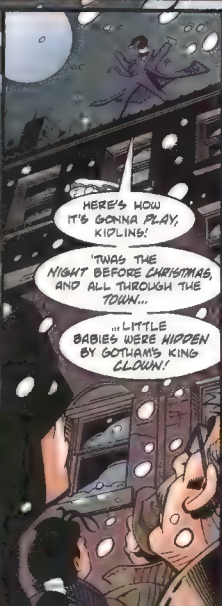
ALL
INFANTS.



THE PARENTS MUST BE
GOING MAD.

WE'LL
FIND
THEM.

I DON'T THINK
SO!!!



HERE'S HOW
IT'S GONNA PLAY,
KIDLINS!

'TWAS THE
NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
AND ALL THROUGH THE
TOWN...

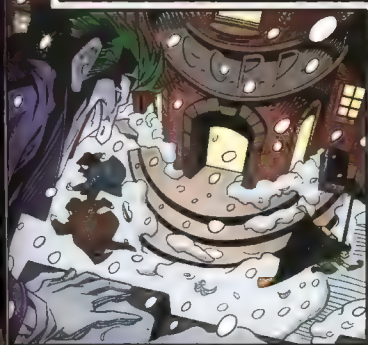
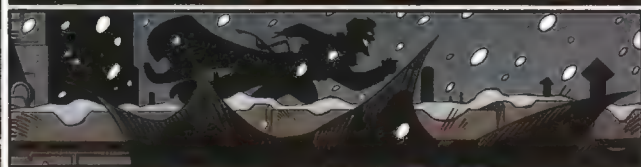
...LITTLE
BABIES WERE HIDDEN
BY GOTHAM'S KING
CLOWN!



AS
CHRISTMAS DAY
NEARED AND THE
SUN IT DID
RISE...

EITHER
BAT'S FOUND THE
KIDS...

...OR THE
KIDS, WELL, THEY
DIES!





...TANKIN' A NURSERY, ORACLE?

COULD BE...



...WHAT'S INSIDE?

BABY'S BREATH
BUY ONE
GET ONE FREE

"BABY'S BREATH..."

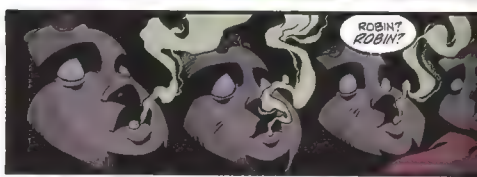
...OH,
DUDE...THAT'S
SICK...



ROBIN... BE CAREFUL...

OKAY... THERE ARE A BUNCH A DOLLS, AND A... TANK OF... SOMETHING...

SMILEX

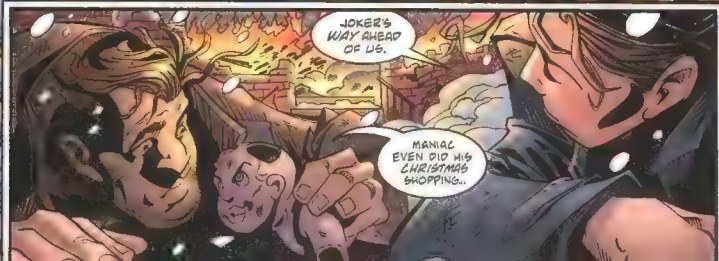


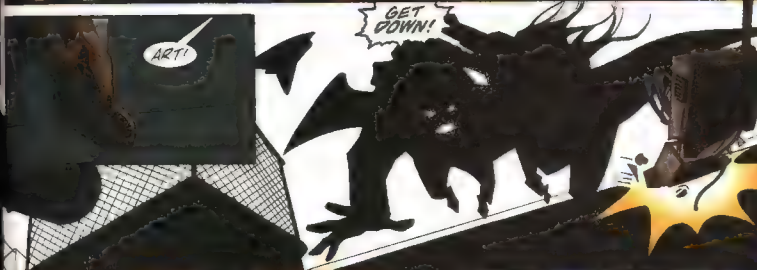
ROBIN? ROBIN?

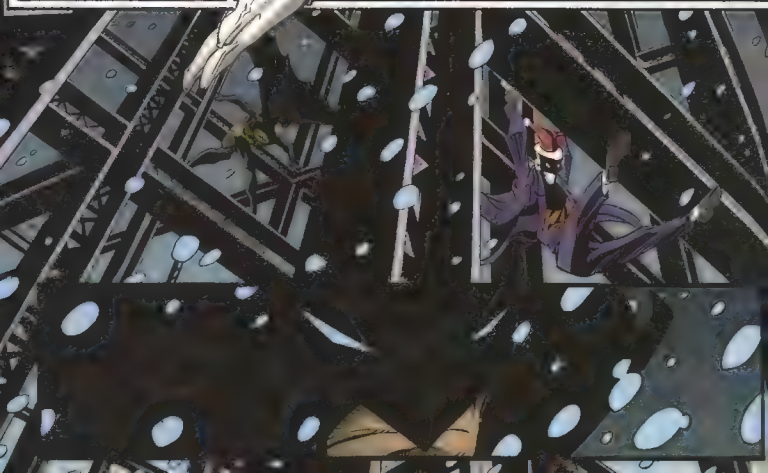
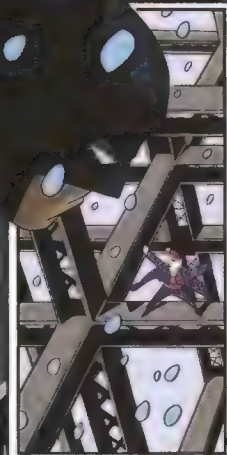
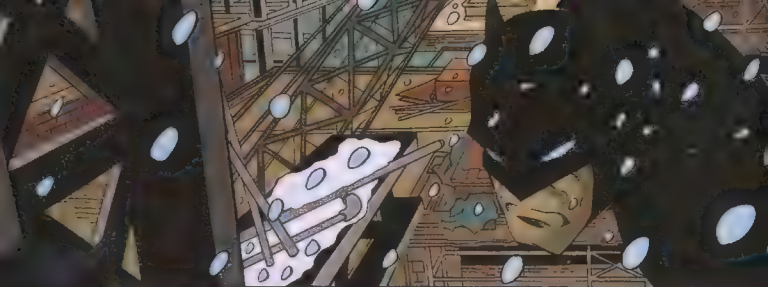


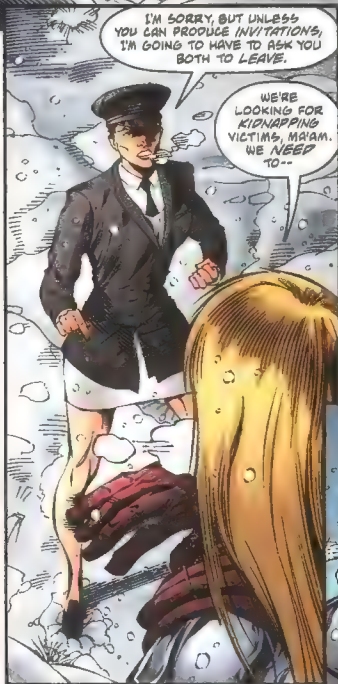
ANSWER ME!

I'VE GOT IT... IT'S UNDER CONTROL...

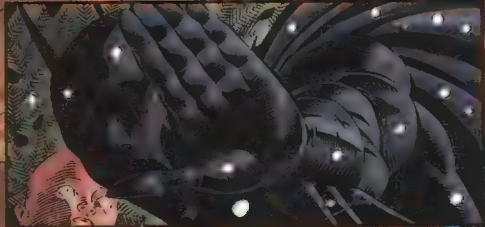








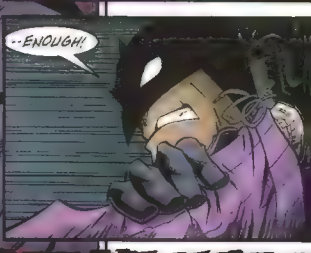


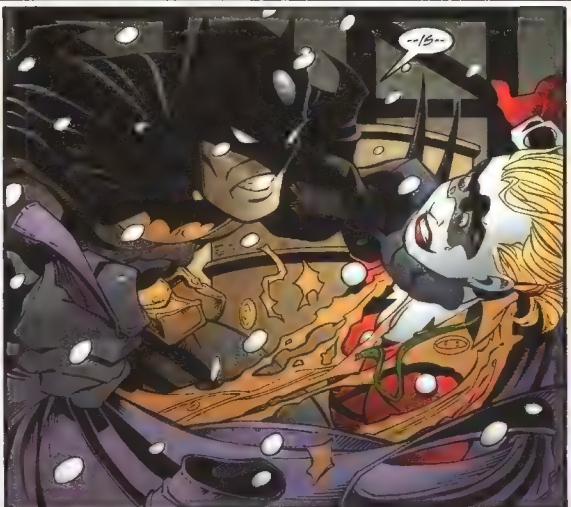
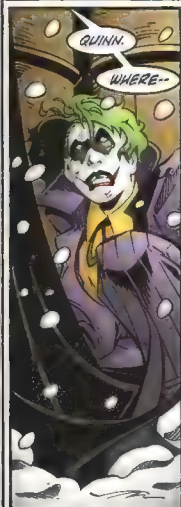


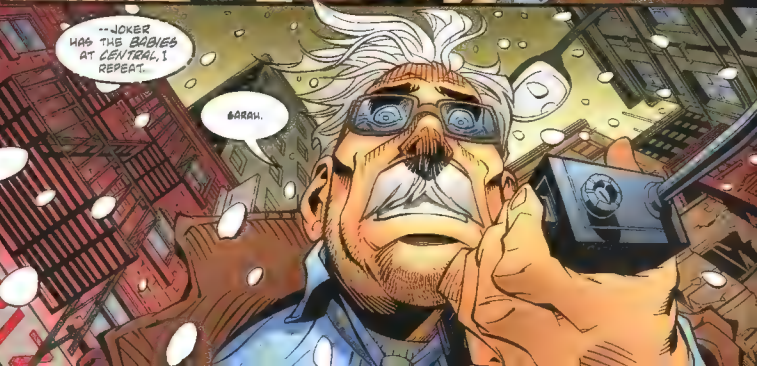
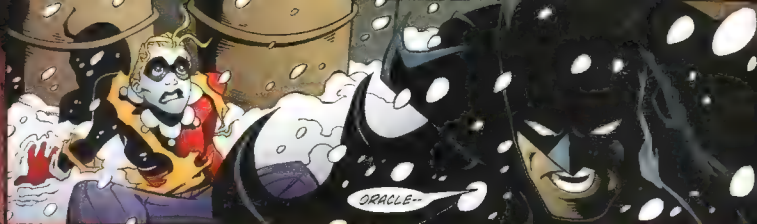
NO!

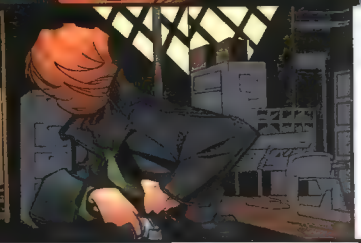
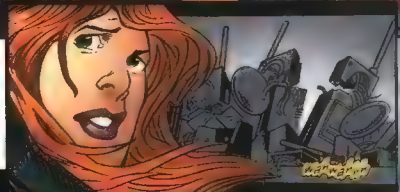
MEDIC!





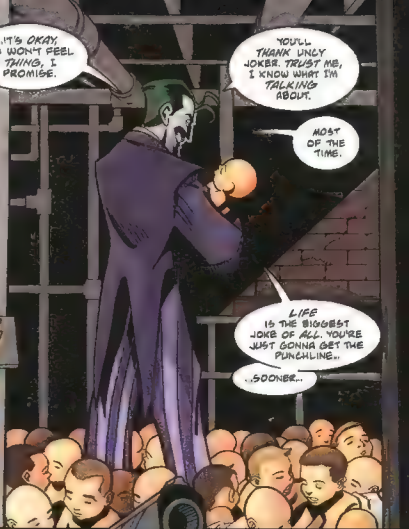








...IT'S OKAY,
YOU WON'T FEEL
A THING, I
PROMISE.



YOU'LL
THANK UNCLY
JOKER. TRUST ME,
I KNOW WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT.

MOST
OF THE
TIME.

LIFE
IS THE BIGGEST
JOKE OF ALL. YOU'RE
JUST GONNA GET THE
PUNCHLINE.

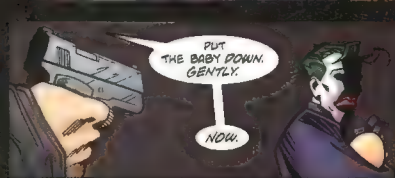
...SOONER...



FREEZE

SCPD

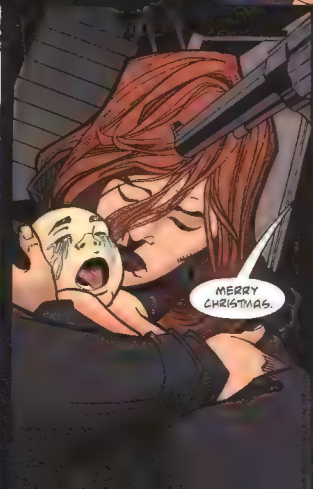
YOU'RE
UNDER ARREST,
JOKER.



PUT
THE BABY DOWN.
GENTLY.

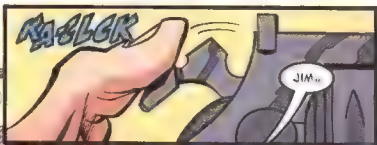
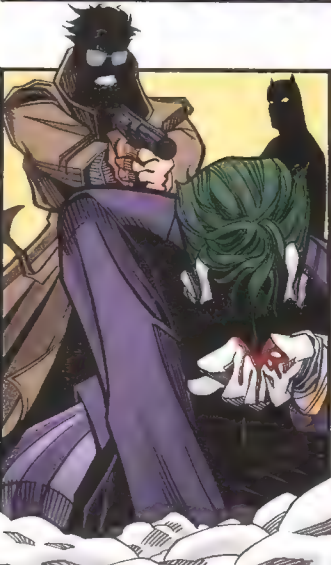
NOW.

















YOU HAVE A
LITTLE BOY, TOO,
DON'T YOU?



AAAAHHH!

HEY, HEY!

YOU JUST GONNA
LET HIM DO THAT TO ME?



HE
SHOT MY
KNEE! I MAY
NEVER...

...oh...



...LIKE YOUR
DAUGHTER!

I
GET
IT!

GOOD ONE,
COMMISSIONER!



written by GREG RUCKA & DEVIN GRAYSON
 pencilled by DAMION SCOTT & DALE EAGLESHAM
 inked by SEAN PARSONS, SAL BUSCEMA & ROB HUNTER
 colored by separation.s by PAMELA RAMBO
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 JOSEPH ILLIDGE, & FRANK BERRIOS
 BATMAN created by BOB KANE

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

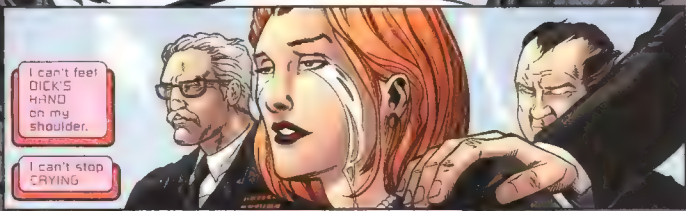
I can't hear a word the priest is saying



I can't feel
DICK'S
HAND
on my
shoulder.

I can't stop
CRYING

And the thoughts beat
around one another in
my head, and I can't
stop wondering...



Wondering
about my DAD who
lost his wife

...LIEUTENANT ESSEN
WAS A HERO. EVERYONE HERE
KNOWS THAT.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING
I CAN DO, COMMISSIONER,
FOR YOU OR YOUR
DAUGHTER...

NO.
THANK
YOU, MISTER
LUTHOR.

...BE
AT THE
WAKE?

...POOR
MAN, CAN YOU
IMAGINE...

...SHOULD
HAVE KILLED THE
JOKER THEN AND
THERE...

Wondering about the
MADMAN who STOLE
Sarah from us

SEE YOU
TONIGHT?

SURE

the MADMAN
who put me in
this CHAIR

Joker

Wondering how
ONE MAN can
cause a family
SO MUCH pain.

a ways called
her Sarah

And now it's TOO
LATE to call her
MOM

It's December 31st

The last day of
the YEAR...

...the LAST DAY of the
NO MAN'S LAND.

And most of all,
I wonder

WAS
IT WORTH IT,
BATMAN?

SARAH
ESSEN-GORDON
HONORARY OFFICER
KILLED IN THE
LINE OF DUTY
GOTHAM'S PRIDE

ENDGAME

EPILOGUE:

DAYS of AULD LANG SYNE

GREG RUCKA writer
PABLO RAIMONDI penciller
SEAN PARSONS inker
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WILDSTORM FX separator
WILLIE SCHUBERT letterer
FRANK BERRIOS assistant editor
JOSEPH ILLIDGE associate editor
DENNIS O'NEIL editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE





CAN YOU
IMAGINE THE
PR NIGHTMARE IF
JOKER HAD MURDERED
JUST ONE OF THOSE
INFANTS?

WE OWE
LIEUTENANT
ESSEN A DEBT OF
THANKS.

...SHE'S ALLOWED
OUR PLAN TO REACH
FRUITION.

EVERY-
THING READY
FOR TONIGHT'S
GALA?

YOU'RE EXPECTED
AT THE VALLENCIA TOWER AT
2200 HOURS TO RING IN THE NEW
MILLENNIUM WITH MEDIA PRINCE
BRUCE WAYNE.

OVER 100
REPORTERS HAVE ALREADY
RSVP'ED.

GREAT.

WE'RE
READY, MERCY.
YOU HAVE THE
DATA?

CATWOMAN
WASN'T AS
TOUGH AS SHE
IMAGINED.

NONE
OF THEM IS.
JUST ASK THE
BOY IN
BLUE.

LET'S
ACQUIRE SOME REAL
ESTATE, SHALL
WE?



HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

LET'S
JUST GET TO
WORK.

SEARCH FOR
HARDING.

ALREADY
DONE. NICHOLAS J.
HARDING HAS BEEN UPLOADED
TO THE STATE BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT'S
RECORDS...

...WHICH
MEANS LUTHOR
IS ON THE
MOVE.

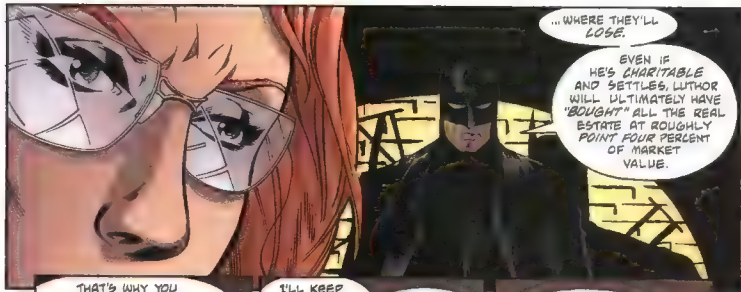
IT MEANS HE'S
JUST FORGED TITLE TO
ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS
OF ALL THE PROPERTY IN
GOTHAM CITY.

IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE TO ME. DOES HE REALLY
THINK THAT IF HE FORGES THE
RECORDS THE REAL OWNERS
WON'T CONTEST HIS
CLAIM?

IT
DOESN'T
CONCERN
HIM.

THE OWNERS
OF SIXTY-SEVEN POINT
FIVE PERCENT OF THE
PROPERTY LUTHOR JUST
UPLOADED DIED IN THE
QUAKE.

OF THE
REMAINING THIRTY-
TWO POINT FIVE, ONLY SEVEN
PERCENT HAVE THE FINANCIAL
WHEREWITHAL TO TAKE LUTHOR
TO COURT...



...WHERE THEY'LL
LOSE.

EVEN IF
HE'S CHARITABLE
AND SETTLES, LUTHOR
WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE
"BOUGHT" ALL THE REAL
ESTATE AT ROUGHLY
POINT FOUR PERCENT
OF MARKET
VALUE.

THAT'S WHY YOU
TOLD LUCIUS FOX ABOUT
HARDING.

I'LL KEEP
MONITORING
THE BLM--

BARBARA.

SHOULDN'T
YOU BE AT THE
WAKE?

PRECISELY.

AND THAT'S
WHY BRUCE WAYNE IS
MEETING FOX THIS
EVENING.





"POLICE
AND MORE BUT
YOU KNOW THE
THING--"

"ANOTHER
DRINK? ANYONE?
ANYONE?"

"SAYING
THEY'LL HAVE HEAT
TO BURNLEY
BEFORE..."

"THEN THERE
WAS THAT TIME THE
LIEUTENANT BROUGHT
DOWN GROC!"

"OH, YEAH!
AND THEN THAT
ROOKIE, THAT KID,
HE SAID--"



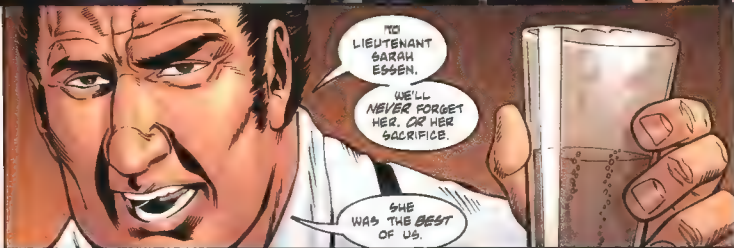
"--GEE WHIZ,
LIEUTENANT! I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU KNEW HOW
TO WRESTLE A
GATOR!"

HA HA HA HA



"YO!
SHUT UP, ALL
OF YOU!"

"I WANT
TO PROPOSE A
TOAST..."



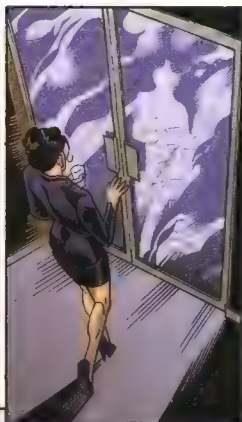
"TO
LIEUTENANT
SARAH
ESSEN."

"WE'LL
NEVER FORGET
HER. OR HER
SACRIFICE."

"SHE
WAS THE BEST
OF US."



"SHE
WAS THE BEST
OF US."





DAD
WOULD FLIP IF HE
KNEW I WAS BACK HERE
AFTER EVERYTHING HE
WENT THROUGH TO
GET ME OUT OF
GOTHAM.

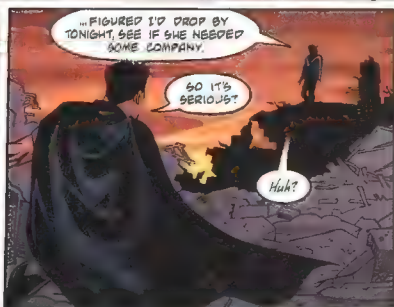
HELICOPTER
RESCUE. CAN'T
BEAT THAT.



IT'S
EMBARRASSING,
THAT'S WHAT IT
IS.

HOW WAS
THE FUNERAL?
HOW'S ORACLE
DOING?

FUNERAL
WAS... SAD. AS FOR
ORACLE...



...FIGURED I'D DROP BY
TONIGHT, SEE IF SHE NEEDED
SOME COMPANY.

SO IT'S
SERIOUS?

Huh?



DUDE.
NEW YEAR'S
EVE.

RINGING
IN THE NEW
MILLENNIUM...



GUESS
WE KNOW WHO YOU'LL BE
KISSING AT MIDNIGHT,
HUH?



..CAN'T THIS WAIT?

NOT SO TIGHT, ALFRED!

IT'S IMPORTANT, BRUCE.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU CALLED ME, SAID YOU'D TALKED TO A MAN NAMED HARDING?

Umm... NO.

TRUST ME, YOU DID. SAID HARDING HAD SOLD HIS LAND TO LUTHOR.

I DID SOME CHECKING. NICK HARDING DOESN'T EXIST.

WHOEVER YOU TALKED TO WAS TRYING TO TIP YOU TO SOME MAJOR FRAUD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I'LL SKIP THE DETAILS...

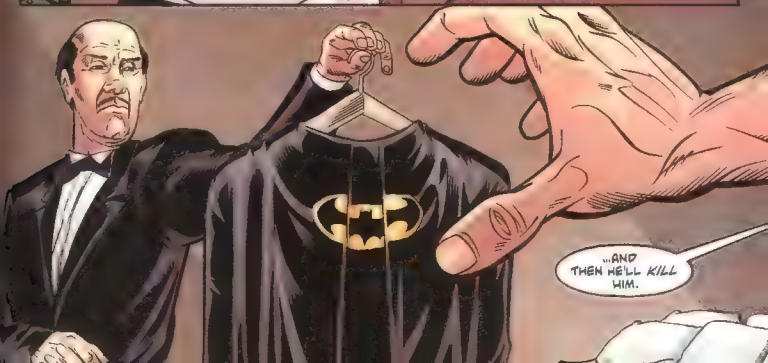
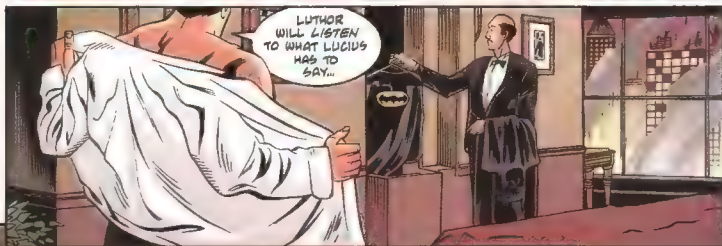
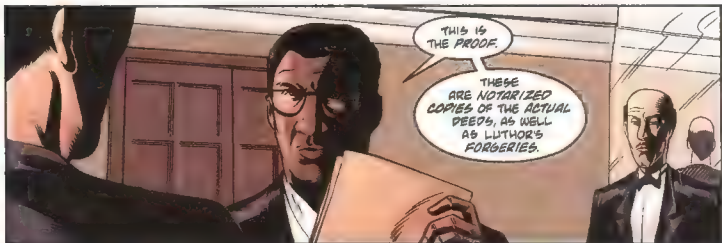
...ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT IT LOOKS LIKE LUTHOR HAS BEEN TAMPERING WITH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

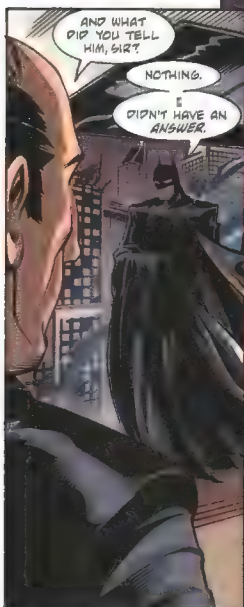
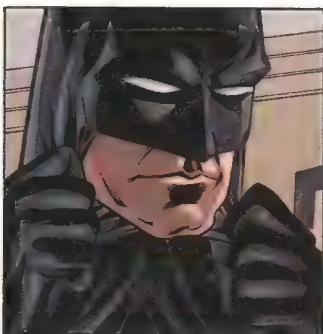
THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG...

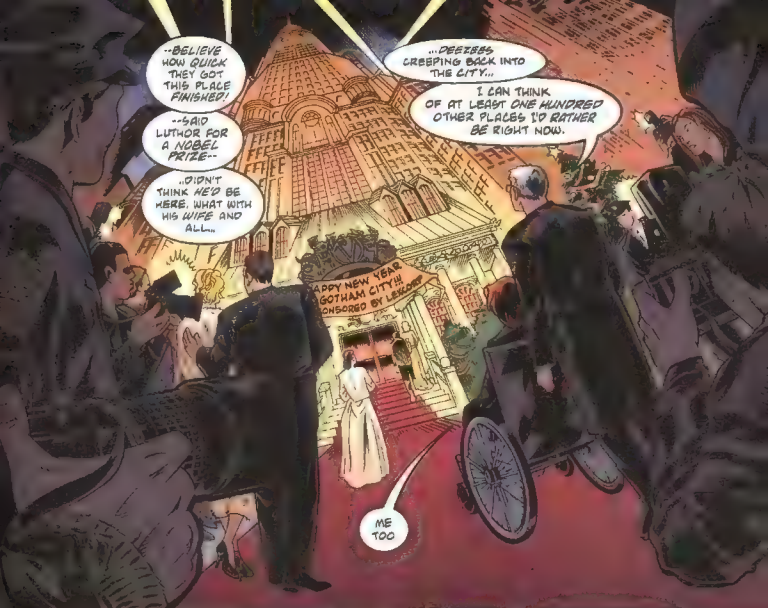
..HE WANTS TO OWN GOTHAM.

LEX LUTHOR?

I... I HAD NO IDEA, LUCIUS.







--BELIEVE
HOW QUICK
THEY GOT
THIS PLACE
FINISHED!

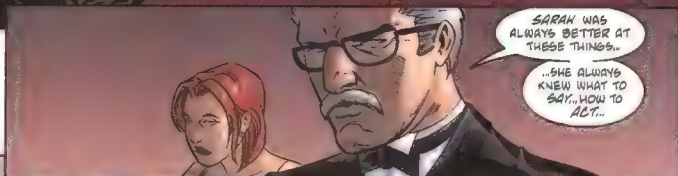
--SAID
LUTHOR FOR
A NOBEL
PRIZE--

--DIDN'T
THINK HE'D BE
HERE. WHAT WITH
HIS WIFE AND
ALL--

--DEFEBB
CREEPING BACK INTO
THE CITY--

I CAN THINK
OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED
OTHER PLACES I'D RATHER
BE RIGHT NOW.

ME
TOO



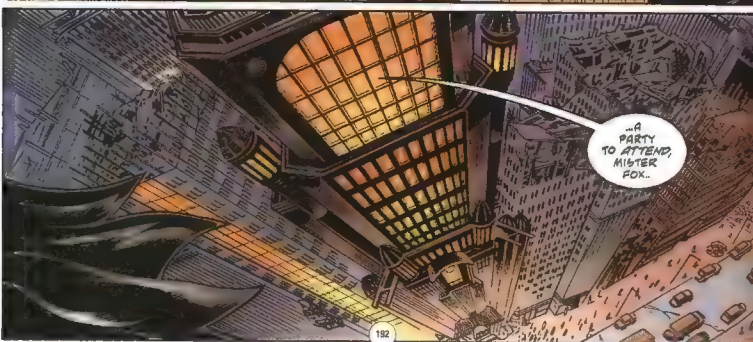
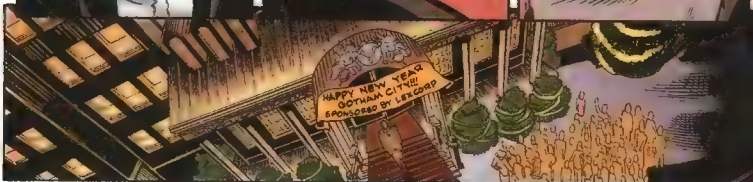
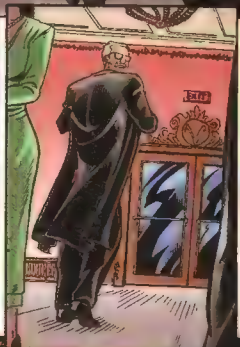
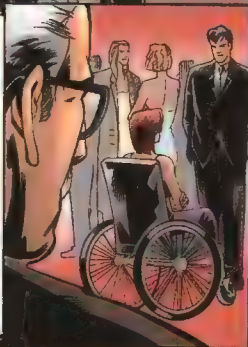
SARAH WAS
ALWAYS BETTER AT
THESE THINGS...

...SHE ALWAYS
KNEW WHAT TO
SAY...HOW TO
ACT...



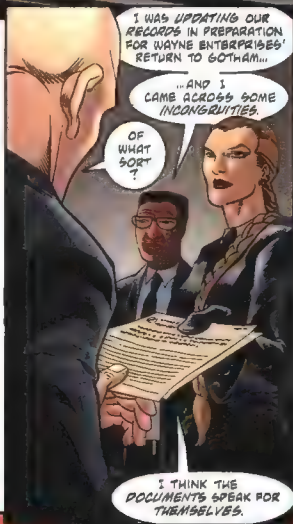
I'M LOST
WITHOUT HER.
BARBARA

I
KNOW,
DAD





...LET'S
MAKE THIS FAST, SHALL
WE?
I'M
HOPING THIS WILL BE
BRIEF



I WAS UPDATING OUR
RECORDS IN PREPARATION
FOR WAYNE ENTERPRISES'
RETURN TO GOTHAM...

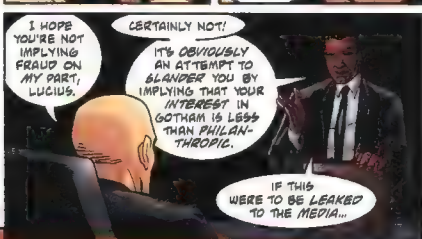
...AND I
CAME ACROSS SOME
INCONGRUITIES.

OF
WHAT
SORT
?

I THINK THE
DOCUMENTS SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES.



THIS IS...
CLEARLY
IRREGULAR,
I AGREE.

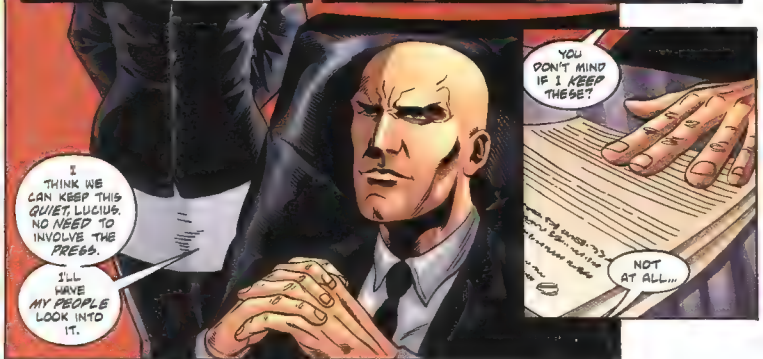


I HOPE
YOU'RE NOT
IMPLYING
FRAUD ON
MY PART,
LUCIUS.

CERTAINLY NOT!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY
AN ATTEMPT TO
BLANDER YOU BY
IMPLYING THAT YOUR
INTEREST IN
GOTHAM IS LESS
THAN PHILAN-
THROPIC.

IF THIS
WERE TO BE LEAKED
TO THE MEDIA...



I
THINK WE
CAN KEEP THIS
QUIET, LUCIUS.
NO NEED TO
INVOLVE THE
PRESS.

I'LL
HAVE
MY PEOPLE
LOOK INTO
IT.

YOU
DON'T MIND
IF I KEEP
THESE?

NOT
AT ALL...



...I'VE GOT COPIES.

GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO SORT THAT OUT, LEX.

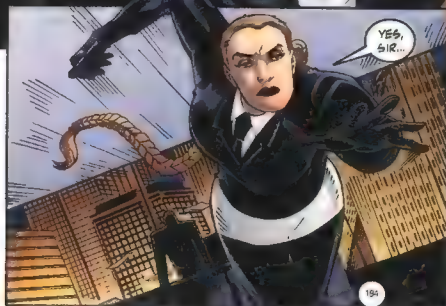


SEE YOU AT THE PARTY, LEX.



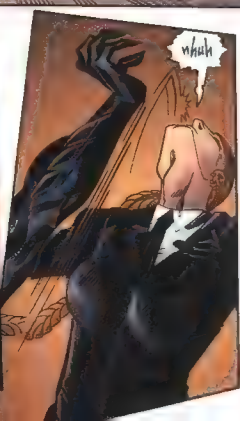
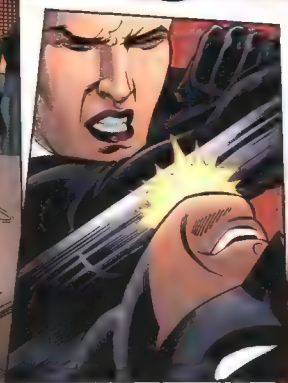
MERCY...

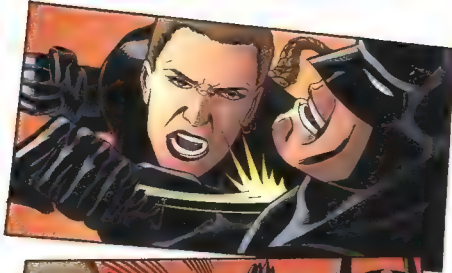
KILL HIM BEFORE HE GETS DOWNSTAIRS!



YES, SIR...







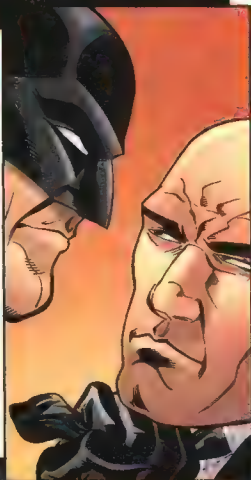
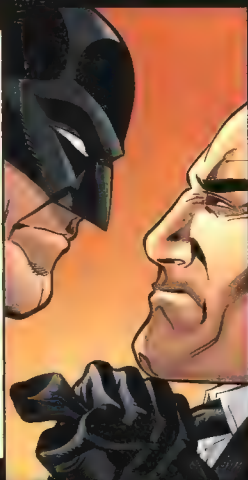


VIGILANTE--



I WARNED YOU A MONTH AGO.

THIS IS MY TOWN.



GOTHAM'S NOT FOR SALE.

IF YOU LEAVE NOW, YOU CAN BE IN METROPOLIS BY MIDNIGHT.



...ONE
MINUTE! ONE MINUTE,
EVERYBODY!

FIFTY-
NINE... FIFTY-
EIGHT...

...GOT REAL
CHAMPAGNE!



HEY, HELENA...

I
BROUGHT YOU
SOME...

...TWENTY
NINE... TWENTY-
EIGHT... TWENTY-
SEVEN...



...WEEDS...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

I
WANTED
TO SEE
YOU

...TWENTY...
ONE... TWENTY...
NINETEEN...



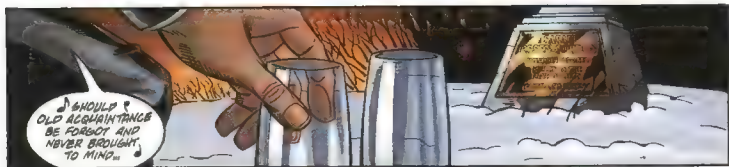
...TWELVE...
ELEVEN... TEN...
NINE... EIGHT...

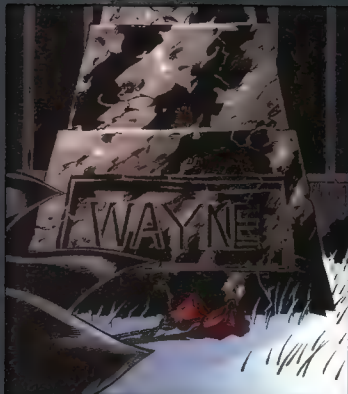


...THREE...
TWO...



...ONE...





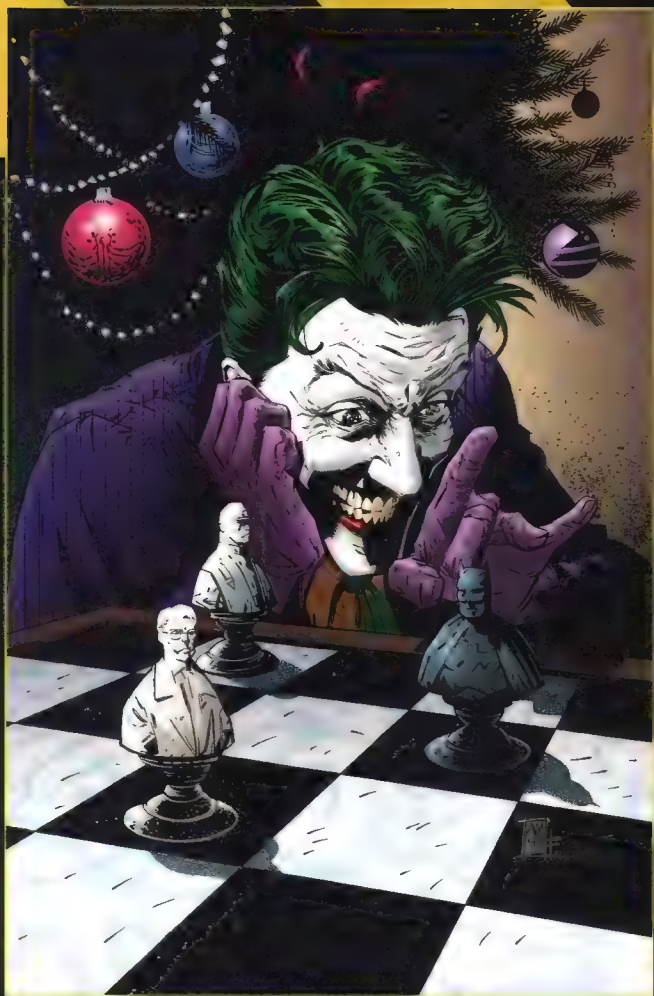


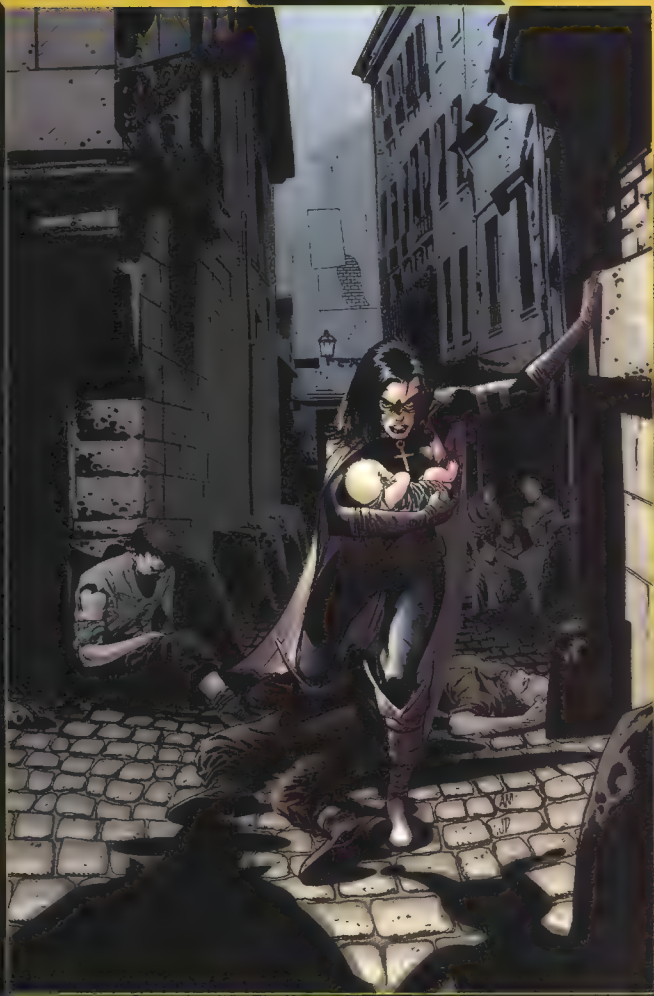
John Byrne

COVER GALLERY













IN THE LAST DAYS OF NO MAN'S LAND...

GOTHAM'S DEADLIEST VILLAIN RETURNS WITH A VENGEANCE!

As the United States government moves towards a resolution to end the controversial policy of sealing off the post-Cataclysm Gotham City from the rest of the world, a new threat arises for those trapped within. His name is Lex Luthor, and his ambition is to do no less than own Gotham. It will take all the Dark Knight's resources to stop him. But an even greater threat looms, as Batman's greatest foe emerges from the rubble of "No Man's Land" — the Joker!

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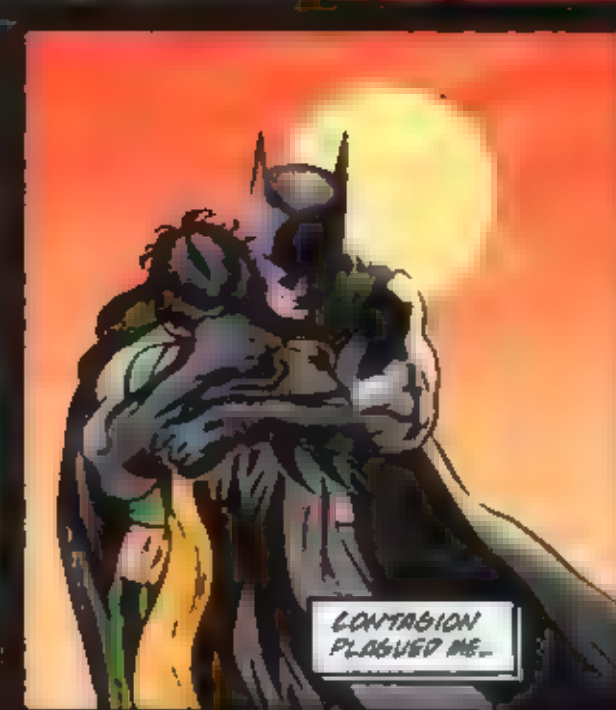


THEY TURN THEIR BACKS.

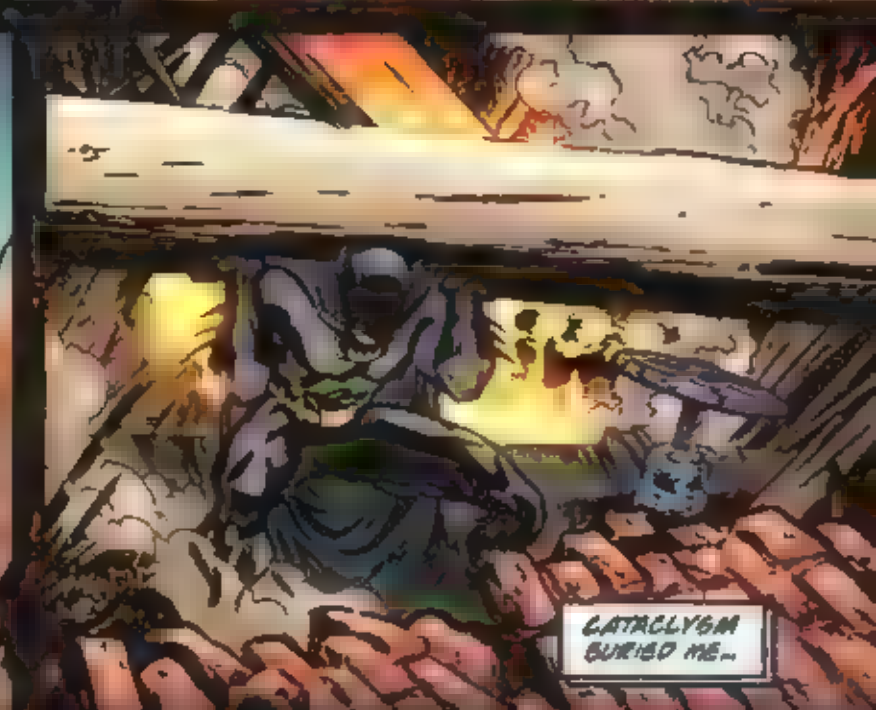
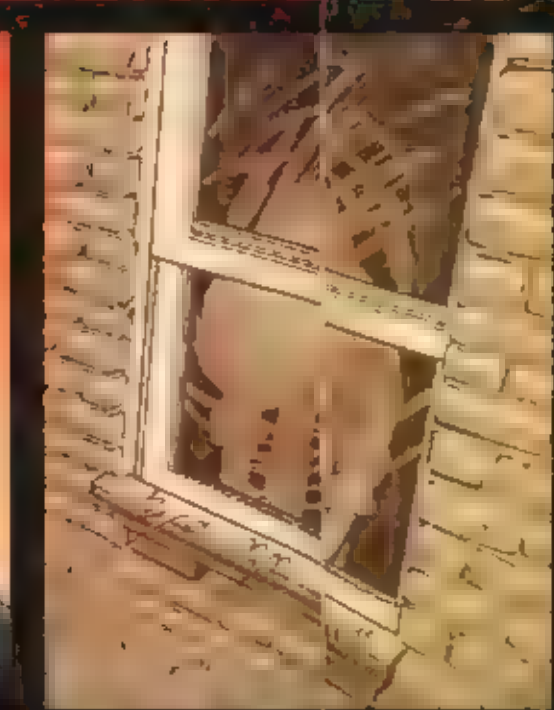
THEY DON'T CARE.



BANE
BROKE
ME...



CONTAGION
PLAGUED ME...



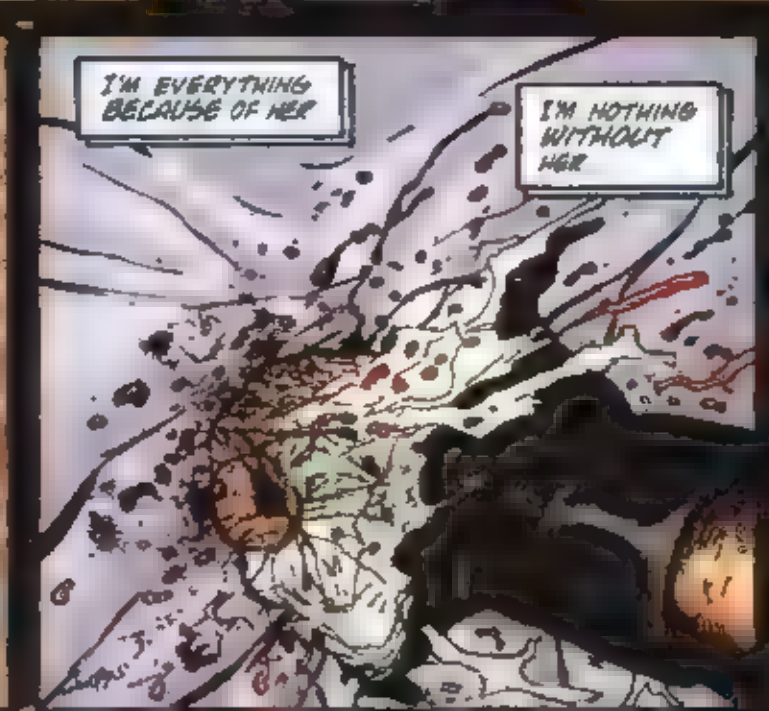
CATASTROPHIC
BURIED ME...



BUT I KEPT FIGHTING.

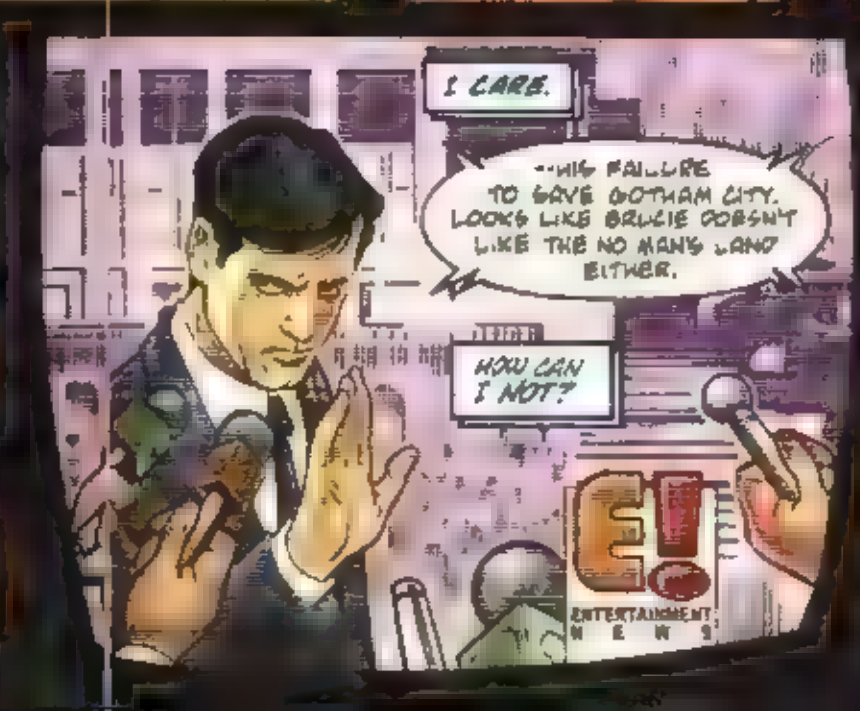
I NEVER
STOPPED
FIGHTING.

ALL FOR
HER.



I'M EVERYTHING
BECAUSE OF HER

I'M NOTHING
WITHOUT
HER



I CARE.

...HIS FAILURE
TO SAVE GOTHAM CITY.
LOOKS LIKE BRUCE DOESN'T
LIKE THE NO MAN'S LAND
EITHER.

HOW CAN
I NOT?

E!
ENTERTAINMENT
NEWS



ALL THOSE TIMES, ALL
THOSE BATTLES...

I've been watching
Luthor's DOG AND PONY
show for 18 hours...

... not knowing whether I
should CRY or LAUGH.

... STUNNING
TURN OF EVENTS THE
PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED
TO ISSUE A
STATEMENT...

... STARTING
NOW.

LEX,
JUST
ONE--

--QUESTIONING
MOTI--

--COMMENT
PLEASE--

--GOVERNMENT
OBJECTIONS--

--STATEMENT
TO THE--

--ACTIONS
HERE
ILLEGAL?

I WILL NOT BE
BEMOLEDEN TO AN
IMMORAL LAW.

NOR SHOULD YOU BE!
NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND
UP AND ACT FOR THE
RIGHT!

... JOBS
AND CON-
STRUCTION?

... OVERWHELMING RESPONSE
IN JUST 24 HOURS. GOTHAMITES
ARE LIVING UP FOR BLOCKS...

... ALL FOR THE
PROMISE OF A PAYCHECK,
FOOD, AND THE CHANCE
TO REBUILD THEIR
CITY...

ESTABLISHING A
TRIAGE CENTER AT WHAT
IS NOW BEING CALLED
CAMP LEX...

MEDICAL
PERSONNEL
HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED...

WE WILL EMPLOY
ANYONE WHO WANTS
TO WORK THIS IS
THEIR CITY, AFTER
ALL...

I'M
HERE TO GIVE
THEM THE TOOLS
AND SUPPORT THEY
NEED, NOTHING
MORE.

AND WHAT DO
YOU GET OUT OF
IT, LEX?

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

ASIDE FROM
THE BENEFITS OF
HELPING MY FELLOW
MAN...

... EVEN I
COULDN'T BUY
THIS KIND OF
PR!

I don't think any of us had EVER seen anything like it.

I don't think any of us knew what to expect.

THUP THUP THUP THUP

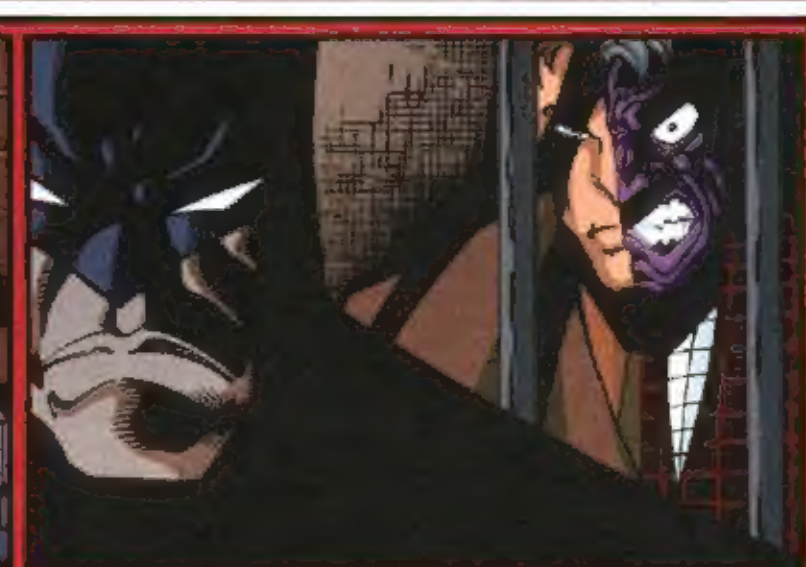
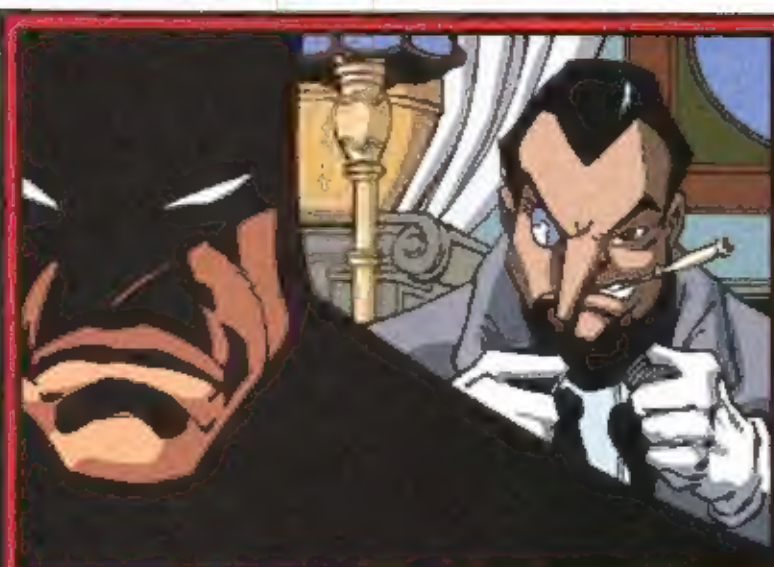
And I KNOW none of us understood the price we would have to pay.

SILENT NIGHT
Holy Night
All is Calm, All is Bright...
ENDGAME
PART ONE:

At least...I know I didn't.

GREG RUCKA & DEVIN GRAYSON DAMON SCOTT & DALE EAGLESHAM
writers pencillers
JOHN FLOYD PAMELA RAMBO WILDSTORM FX WILLIE SCHUBERT
inker colorist separator letterer
FRANK BERRIOS JOSEPH ILLIDGE DARREN VINCENZO & DENNIS O'NEIL
assistant editor associate editor editors

BATMAN created by BOB KANE



...with INNOCENCE
caught in the
CROSSFIRE.

THIS
DINNER IS NOT
OVER! NOBODY
LEAVES HERE
WITHOUT MY
PERMISSION!!

...GONNA
DIE WE'RE ALL
GONNA...

...OH MY GOD
OH MY GOD OH MY...

STAY CALM!
EVERYONE! DON'T
PANIC!

FOLEY!
HELP ME!

LISTEN
TO ME! IF YOU GO
OUT THERE, JOKER
WILL KILL
YOU!

...GET OUT
OF HERE YOU'VE GOT
TO GET US OUT
OF HERE!

MOMMY!
MOMMY...

...SURROUNDED
WE'RE
SURROUNDED...

ENDGAME II

PART TWO:

...TENDER AND MILD...

GREG RUEKA writer	DALE EAGLESHAM penciller	JOHN FLOYD inker
NOELLE GIDDINGS colorist	WILDSTORM FX separator	WILLIE SCHUBERT letterer
FRANK BERRIOS assistant editor	JOSEPH ILLIDGE associate editor	DARREN VINCENZO & DENNIS O'NEIL editors

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

